

Fulton Sun

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Photo courtesy William Woods University
Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe delivers the 2024 undergraduate commencement address during a ceremony at William Woods University. 190 undergraduate students and 202 graduate students were in the ceremony.

William Woods hosts commencement ceremonies

By Anakin Bush
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William Woods University hosted commencement ceremonies Saturday, when almost 400 students graduated. The first ceremony was for undergraduate students. 190 undergraduates were in the ceremony. Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe delivered the commencement address for the undergraduate ceremony. He spoke to the graduates about his upbringing by a single mother in St. Louis.

"My mother was a very strong woman of faith, and she continually reminded us how blessed we were even as she worked three jobs and worked to help support our family," Kehoe said. Kehoe shared that one of the secrets to success he has found is "empowering the people on your team." "You are our future," Kehoe said. "And the future is bright." After his speech, Kehoe was presented with an honorary William Woods degree. The second ceremony of the day was for graduate students. 202 graduate students in the ceremony.

The commencement speaker for the ceremony was Romaine Seguin, 1982 William Woods graduate and chair of the board of trustees. In her address, Seguin discussed the path she took after graduating from WWU. After graduation, she served as president of UPS Global Freight Forwarding and was recently named CEO of Good360. She shared with the students that establishing trust is "essential to being a successful leader." After Seguin's speech, she was also presented with an honorary degree.

General Assembly faces deadlines for budget, key priorities

By Genevieve Tlustos
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With only three weeks left of session, the General Assembly still has some major tasks ahead. Six bills have passed the legislative process so far this session and await Gov. Mike Parson's signature. One bill blocks abortion affiliates from receiving Missouri Medicaid funds. Another is a large and controversial education package. Senate Bill 727, SB 1751 is aimed at blocking a Kansas City landfill. House Bill 1803 increases the limit on the state treasurer's linked deposits. Another bill appropriates supplemental funding to support Missouri Highway Patrol and National Guard in their deployment to the southern border of Texas. Another has to do with virtual schooling and four-day school weeks. Parson has 45 days from the end of session to take action on any bills that pass.

What must pass Perhaps the most pressing issue is Missouri's budget. May 10 is the constitutional deadline for the Legislature to have the budget passed and delivered to the governor. The budget made it through the House with about \$2 billion trimmed from the governor's recommendation. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the budget last week. Though the Senate budget did add back in some funding for items the House cut, in general, Senate Appropriations Chair Lincoln Hough, R-Springfield, said he tried to keep the Senate version similar to the House's. Members of the Senate Freedom Caucus have told reporters they plan to take a close look at the proposed budget and eliminate unnecessary spending on the Senate floor. Potentially standing in the way of the budget passing the Senate is the Federal Reimbursement Allowance, an approxi-

mately \$4.5 billion source of funding for the state's Medicaid program. Hough said at a press conference April 18 that the FRA needs to pass before the Senate passes the budget. House Majority Floor Leader Jonathan Patterson has said for most of the session that the House will wait for the Senate to act first on the FRA. House Minority Floor Leader Crystal Quade is sponsoring a version of the FRA renewal and last week called on the House to move that version instead of waiting on the Senate. Patterson told reporters Monday, however, the House will continue to wait for the Senate to act, then move it through the lower chamber as soon as possible. Senate Freedom Caucus members said April 18 that they wanted to see a bill prohibiting abortion providers from receiving Medicaid funds and a bill making it more

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Submitted Photo
Linda Vedder with her AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year Award at the Show Me Service Awards on April 23. Vedder has been an Oasis Tutoring reading mentor since 2021.

Fulton resident receives Volunteer of the Year award

By Emily O'Leary
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A Fulton resident received a Show Me Service Award on April 23. A release states Linda Vedder was named the AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year for the North/Central region. Vedder received the award during the 22nd Annual Show Me Service Awards on April 23 at the Missouri State Capitol. The Show Me Service Awards "recognized exceptional volunteers across the state" during National Volunteer Week, the release states. Vedder began volunteering with Oasis Tutoring in 2021. "She serves as a pen pal and reading mentor at New Bloomfield Elementary School, providing one-on-one time with students who need it most while supporting the classroom teacher's efforts," the release states. Vedder said receiving the award was unexpected. "The rewards of tutoring a grade-schooler far outweigh the time or effort required to help that young one," Vedder said in the release. The highlight of Vedder's week is meeting with the student she is mentoring. "Getting to know the child and helping him learn to read has been fun and so rewarding," Vedder said. Linda McNorris, Oasis Tutoring facilitator at New Bloomfield Elementary School, plans to become an Oasis volunteer after retiring. "I think the Oasis Tutoring program is a great way to involve the community in our schools and it gives our students extra reading time to improve their reading skills," McNorris said in the release. The Oasis Institute is "a national non-profit education organization that offers innovative programs to adults aged 50 and older," the release states. The institute runs Oasis Tutoring. Since Oasis' reading mentor program launched in 1989, it has reached over 525,000 children. "The program not only benefits young students, but also promotes healthy aging through lifelong learning, active lifestyles, and community service," the release states. Oasis Tutoring in Audrain County and Callaway County is funded by an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant. "AmeriCorps provides opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds to be part of the national service community, grow personally and professionally, and receive benefits for their service," the release states. For more information about Oasis Tutoring, contact RSVP Program Manager Mandy Plybon at aplybon@oasistutoring.org or 573-416-3193.

Stars, Stripes and Swing to recognize military service members

By Morgan Slatten
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The Fulton High School Hornet Jazz Band is preparing to host Stars, Stripes and Swing, an annual big band concert and dance. The event will be 7-9 p.m. May 11 at Fulton High Schools. Stars, Stripes and Swing is in

recognition of National Military Appreciation Month. Angela Winterbower, vice-president of the Fulton Band Boosters, said the event aims to recognize military service members. "We can never honor and thank the members of our Armed Forces and their families enough for the sacrifices

they've made, but we certainly want them to know we are appreciative," Winterbower said. The event will feature the Hornet Jazz Band playing jazz songs from "yesterday and today." Live music is not all that will be at the concert. "We will have a military

memories slideshow, dessert bar and silent auction," Winterbower said. "Photo submissions are wanted for the slideshow and can be sent to FultonBandBoostersEmail@gmail.com." Swing dance lessons will be offered at 6:45p.m., along with local military related organizations being there to display

information and memorabilia throughout the event. "The Mid-Missouri Veteran's Express and local author and Vietnam veteran, Stan Adams, will have exhibits this year. Adams is the author of the Vietnam memoir, Mokane to Mole City," Winterbower said. All veterans and active members of the military will receive

a small gift and be verbally recognized during the show. "Ultimately, we want current and former members of the Armed Forces to know we are eternally grateful and appreciate their service and sacrifice," Winterbower said. Admission for those five and older is \$5. Admission is free for anyone under five.

CALENDAR

Post your public event in this calendar and online at fultonsun.com/calendar or email news@fultonsun.com.

TUESDAY

- Central Missouri Veterans Coffee Talk, 9-10:30 a.m., Auxvasse Community Center, Auxvasse.
- Discovery Time, 9:30-10:15 a.m. and 10:30-11:15 a.m., Columbia

Public Library, Columbia.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), 5-6 p.m., First Church of God, Jefferson City.

Dance featuring Hambo

- Latham, 6-9 p.m., Callaway Senior Center, 531 Commons Drive.
- Tuesday Night Chess, 6:30 p.m., Cork & Board, Jefferson City.
- Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra Piano Concerto Con-

cert, 7 p.m., Lincoln University, Jefferson City.

- The Collingsworth Family, 7 p.m., Missouri Theater, Columbia.

WEDNESDAY

- Veterans Coffee Talk, 9-10:30 a.m., Disabled American Veterans Post 17, Jefferson City.
- Discovery Time, 9:30-10:15 a.m., 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 5:30-6:15

p.m., Columbia Public Library, Columbia.

- First Wednesday Book Sale, noon-3 p.m., Columbia Public Library, Columbia.

• Yoga, 5:15-6:15 p.m., Missouri River Regional Library, Jefferson City.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), 5:30-7 p.m., Mid America Bank, Wardsville.

TODAY'S FORECAST



HIGH: 82
LOW: 59
SKIES: Sunny

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