

16 bound for state meet

Independence to send full delegation to class 4A state forensics tournament



State champions!

Field Kindley duo wins top prize in SkillsUSA Kansas competition

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THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

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Schmidt gets view of road project near Barlett plant

Upgrades to county roads 4400, 5300 needed to accommodate heavy truck traffic near Bartlett plant, adjacent landfill

> BY ANDY TAYLOR chronicle@taylornews.org

INDEPENDENCE — U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt, R-Kansas, last Friday got a front-row seat to Montgomery County's plans to improve access in and around the Bartlett Soybean Processing Plant south of Cherryvale.

Schmidt conferred with Jonathan Booe, Montgomery County administrator, and Brandon Beurskens, Montgomery County public works director, about Montgomery County's federal grant application for the transportation improvement proposal near the Bartlett plant.

The grants is being sought through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD, Discretionary Grant program.

Under Montgomery County's plan, county road 4400, which north of the Bartlett plant and Republic Services landfill, would be expanded from its junction at U.S. 160 highway and laid with concrete to accommodate the volume of trucks for not only the break plant but also the landfill.

Meanwhile, county road 5300, which is a north-south dead end road that serves as a entry for the soybean plant and the access point for the Republic landfill would be extended beyond the landfill entrance and connect with the expanded county road 4400 to the north.

County road 5300 also would be expanded and built with a concrete surface to accommodate the heavy truck traffic utilizing both plants,

However, the road improvements are not intended solely for Bartlett or the Republic Services facilities. Azure SAF of Canada has already eyed a property directly north of the Bartlett plant as a possible location

• see **SCHMIDT**, page **A3**



U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt (right) gets an overview from Jonathan Booe, Montgomery County administrator, of a more than \$15 million road project that is planned for county road 4400 and county road 5300 near the Bartlett Soybean Processing Plant and Republic Services Landfill. Montgomery County is seeking a federal grant to pay for a majority of the project. ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

CHS Senior Awards Night to be held Wednesday

CHERRYVALE — Cherryvale High School seniors are on the countdown toward graduation.

Leading up to commencement on Saturday, May 10 will be Senior Awards Night, which will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 7 in the Middle-High Cherryvale School Gymnasium.

Scholarships and awards will be given to graduating

The presentation of the "class cane," which is among the oldest traditions in Montgomery County, will be held at the ceremony.

Property tax payment deadline is extended

The second half of the 2024 real estate, personal property, 16/20M truck, gas, oil, and watercraft taxes are due by Saturday, May, 10.

Because the 10th is on a Saturday, the deadline has been extended until Monday, May 12, 2025.

The taxes are payable at the County Treasurers Office at the Courthouse, Independence, the Coffeyville Auto Tag Office, 128 W. 8th, or by

A postmark of May 12 will be accepted.

For additional information, contact the Montgomery County Treasurer's office at 620-330-1100.

Guernsey's life to be recognized with plaque dedication

(NSDAR), will be held on Saturday at the Abbey Mausoleum at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Members of the Esther Lowrey Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, (NSDAR), will hold the plaque dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. to honor Sarah Elizabeth Guernsey.

Guernsey was born in 1860 in Salem, Ohio, the daughter

INDEPENDENCE — A of Reverend Daniel P. Mitchplaque to recognize an early ell. Sarah's family moved to Independence resident who Leavenworth, Kan., when was a national leader in the her father became pastor of however, was with the Na-National Society Daughters a church there. At the age of tional Society Daughters of volunteer organizations. Its of the American Revolution. 16 she began her career as a the American Revolution. school teacher and was eventually elevated to the position as principal of the Independence High School.

Later, after her marriage to George Thatcher Guernsey, a successful Independence banker, she became president of the Independence School Board. When the Ladies' Library Society was formed, Mrs. Guernsey was its president, and through its efforts

the Independence Public Library was founded.

Her most important work, Guernsey was one of the charter members of the Esther Lowrey Chapter in 1905, and served as its Regent. Later, after many years of faithful service, she became the State Regent of Kansas from 1909-17, and again from 1921-23. In April 1917, she was elected President General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Guernsey died in Indepen-

dence on Feb. 28, 1939 at the age of 78.

The NSDAR is one of the nation's largest women's members can trace their lineages back to a Patriot Ancestor who aided in America's fight for independence. It is a nonprofit and nonpolitical organization for women of all ages and backgrounds. The NSDAR has three main mission areas of Historical Preservation, Education, and Patriotism. Members volunteer countless hours serving active-duty military, veterans, and children of all ages.



Sarah Guernsey

Caney family finds where dreams do come true



Where dreams come true: (Left to right) Christian Franklin, Kaydence Franklin, Matt Smith, Brandi Smith and Cadence Smith (in front) at the Magic Kingdom at DisneyWorld in Orlando, Fla.

BY RUDY TAYLOR rudy@taylornews.org

CANEY — A Caney family has returned from a trip to Disney World and other thrilling sights in Orlando, Fla.

It was a special event made possible through Make-A-Wish Missouri and Kansas. Making the trip were Adam Smith, Brandi Smith, Christian Franklin, Kaydence Franklin and the one who was the center of excitement — Candace Smith, age 10. Dozens of other children in like circumstances also made the

Candace, a fourth grade student at Lincoln Memorial Elementary School, is confined to a wheelchair, the victim of a rare genetic disease called Friedrich's Ataxia (FA). The disease progressively damages the nervous system and causes movement issues.

But nothing slowed Candace as the family took their trip to Disney World last week.

Her sister, Christian, wrote the following about

"Candace is a thrill seeker and finder of fun. Most of all, Candace is a roller coaster junkie! She took us on almost every thrill ride they had at Disney World.

"She had so many favorite rides and experiences. I'm so thankful to have been on this trip of a lifetime. The smiles I saw were some I had never seen

"My favorite moment was when we rode the Avatar ride. I looked at Candace and saw her realize that she was riding on the back of a Banshee soaring over waterfalls and down cliffs. The smile on her

face was huge.

"That small fleeting moment of happiness on her face will forever be with us. She may never feel the wind in her hair as she rides a bike down a hill, but she was given something more than that, pure mag-

"Thank you so much to the donors who made this moment possible for her."

The group stayed at Give Kids the World Village which provides a place for kids to spend time with various events, eating unlimited ice cream — even for breakfast — a Halloween party, Christmas and even a birthday party for their mascot.

In addition to all the events and rides at Disney World, kids get to enjoy riding a few slower rides like a carousel and a giant swing. The rides were handicap accessible.

There was a zero entry swimming pool, which Candace loved, and a splash pad, as well as a cafeteria for fun foods.

This took a lot of pressure off the families as they did not have to leave to get food or find entertainment. The village is run primarily by volunteers.

They enjoyed the bigger events such as Tron, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, Expedition Everest, Avatar Flight of Passage, Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind, the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance, Slinky Dog Dash and Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway.

Candace is the daughter of Adam Smith and Brandi Smith. Kaydence Franklin is a niece who is in the fifth grade, and Christian Franklin is a sister.



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"The taxpayers are sending congressmen on expensive trips abroad. It might be worth it . . . except they keep coming back."