



**Dangers Of Social Media**

Left to right Emberlyn Simon and Lucy Calkins gave a presentation to USD 426 school board members last week regarding the dangers of social media and youth.

-Telescope photo by Katy Duryea

**“Unsafe” And “Nuisance” Aren’t The Same Thing**

By Fred Arnold  
Telescope Publisher

Belleville City Manager Adam Anderson said he thought it was time for a bit of a tutorial. Last week during the City’s planning meeting, he wanted to explain the difference between properties labeled as a nuisance and properties that have been listed as unsafe. “There is a little bit of overlap,” he told city council members. “But we do have a few tools in our chest to sort it out.” The city manager said

the primary difference is the time frame in which each are handled. He noted that property owners have 10 days to resolve a nuisance. Unsafe structure properties can be a little more complicated, Anderson said. “It’s a lot longer process,” he said. “Through the public hearing process, it can take 60 days or more before a decision is made.” Anderson said owners of nuisance properties can, but don’t have to, request a public hearing before the city council.

**Belleville Man Seeks OK For Miniature Statues**

By Fred Arnold  
Telescope Publisher

Al Uphoff of Belleville is passionate about honoring and remembering local veterans. Last week, he asked Republic County commissioners for their approval to place five miniature statues honoring the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard in front of the courthouse. “In this county, we have 76 servicemen who didn’t come back,” Uphoff said. Uphoff said he would propose placing the five

statues, each 29-inches tall and fully painted to reflect a specific service branch, in front of the memorial. He said each statue would cost \$250, and he has half of the funds pledged so far. “I don’t think there would be any problem getting the rest of the money,” Uphoff said. County Commissioner Tim Eitzman said he wasn’t opposed to the project but had questions regarding maintenance and how snow removal might be affected around the statues. Commissioners made no decision on the request.

**Pike Valley Students Recognize Pitfalls Associated With Social Media**

By Katy Duryea  
Telescope News

Future Business Leaders of America students Emberlyn Simon and Lucy Calkins presented their first-place district-winning project to the USD #426 board of education members last Monday. The Pike Valley students said they hope their efforts will strengthen the school’s mental health social media outreach. A student-led strategy they are confident students will respond to. Business teacher Amanda Woodard said 11 FBLA students will participate in the upcoming state contest March 30-31 in Topeka. “Our social media strategy will be focused on helping students access mental health resources through platforms they already use every single day,” Calkins said. “Social media gives us a way to share information in a place students already are.”

more teens are affected negatively by social media than they are positively, and one of our main goals is to change that,” Simon said. “Our strategy is aimed at high school students, because they engage most with visual content on

are more likely to save, share, or return to when they need a pick-me-up.” “One of our goals is to let them know, not only about resources, but just some little steps that they can take in their everyday life,” Calkins said. “This can

communicate online. “We strongly believe in student involvement. We send out an email every month to the members of our mental health group through the school,” Calkins added. “We want to give them a chance to make their own post and maybe see it featured on our social media.” Superintendent Mike Gritten asked the students what motivated them to create their project. “Mental health and social media is a topic that we’re both really passionate about,” Simon said. “Social media is something that almost every single kid in school uses.”

“Statistics show that more teens are affected negatively by social media than they are positively, and one of our main goals is to change that,”

-Emberlyn Simon  
FBLA Member

platforms like Instagram.” Simon said 65% of high school students use Instagram, and 70% of those students report being on it every single day. “We will create posts that students

help students stay in tune with their mental health and everybody else’s mental health, as well.” However, the students said Instagram will not be the only way students



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The presenters described a plan to use the social media app, Instagram, to connect with classmates. The group chose the Instagram platform because most students already use and post on it on a regular basis. The account is titled “Uplifting PVHS.” “Statistics show that

**Weather**

<p>Weds 18   Day 80° ☀️ 3% W 10 mph Plentiful sunshine. High around 80F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.</p>	<p>Night 45° 🌙 1% SW 8 mph Clear skies. Low around 45F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.</p>
<p>Thurs 19   Day 83° ☀️ 0% N 13 mph Mainly sunny. High 83F. Winds N at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	<p>Night 40° 🌙 0% SSE 7 mph Mostly clear skies. Low 48F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.</p>
<p>Fri 20   Day 90° ☀️ 3% W 9 mph Sunny. Near record high temperatures. High near 90F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.</p>	<p>Night 49° 🌙 1% SSW 7 mph Mainly clear. Low 49F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.</p>
<p>Sat 21   Day 91° ☀️ 1% SW 14 mph Sunny. High 91F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.</p>	<p>Night 44° 🌙 0% WSW 17 mph A mostly clear sky. Low 44F. SSW winds shifting to NNW at 10 to 20 mph.</p>
<p>Sun 22   Day 59° ☁️ 0% NNE 22 mph Partly cloudy skies. Gusty winds in the morning. High 59F. Winds NNE at 20 to 30 mph.</p>	<p>Night 34° 🌙 0% NE 16 mph Mostly cloudy. Low 34F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.</p>
<p>Mon 23   Day 55° ☁️ 0% E 13 mph Overcast. High near 55F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>	<p>Night 34° 🌙 1% ESE 12 mph Partly to mostly cloudy. Low 34F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>

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**Markets** at closing on Monday

Wheat: \$5.34  
Corn: \$3.81  
Milo: \$3.31  
Soybeans: \$10.46

**ROCK-A-THON**  
49th Anniversary

Thursday, March 19, 2026  
**Czech Day**

8 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation  
9 a.m. - Welcome & Rockers begin  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Czech dinner featuring Jaternice, Roast Pork, Kraut & Dumplings  
1-3 p.m. - Czech Music  
2:45 p.m. - Register for the cookie exchange & wine sampling  
3-5 p.m. - Cookie & wine exchange.  
5-7 p.m. Burgers & hotdogs, baked beans, & chips  
7-8 p.m. - Glow Party downstairs with Tranda Strnad

Friday, March 20, 2026  
**TGIF Day**

10 a.m. - Community Mural  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Fried Chicken Dinner  
12:30- 3 p.m. - Kids Mario Cart Tournament - Upstairs  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - White Elephant Bingo, no charge, please bring a white elephant gift to play  
5 - 7 p.m. - Fish Fry Supper  
8:30 - 11:30 p.m. - Dallas Pryor Band

Saturday, March 22, 2025  
**Rural Community & Dignitaries Day**

7 a.m. - Ag Breakfast & Drawings  
7:30 a.m. - Program by Republic County FFA kids  
10 a.m. - ??? - Blacksmith shop demos, The School and Doc’s Museum will be open  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Registration for baking contest  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Cooks Choice dinner  
12:30 p.m. - Baking Contest  
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. - Free Skating for Everyone  
3:30 p.m. - KIDS DRAWINGS  
5-7 p.m. - Chickn Fried Steak Supper  
6:45 p.m. - Drawings for Rockers  
7 p.m. - Auction