



Ralls County Herald-Enterprise

50 Cents
Includes Sales Tax

'The County Paper' - An Area Tradition Since 1865

Ralls County, Missouri

Volume 143, Number 40
June 25, 2009

Ralls County Bulletin Board

Adiel Baptist

Fish Fry

Adiel Baptist Church, 1032 Hwy C, Frankford, will be having a fish fry on Saturday, June 27. Serving is from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. There will be music after the fish fry.

Union Chapel Ice Cream Social

There will be an Ice Cream supper at the Union Chapel Christian Church on Saturday, June 27, at 5:00 p.m. Union Chapel Christian Church is located seven miles south of Center on Rt. P. Seating will not be provided so please bring a lawn chair. Call 573-565-3171 for more information.

Oak Hill Jam Session

On Saturday, June 27, there will be a free and open jam session starting at 6:00 p.m. at the historic Oak Hill School. The public and all musicians are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Food and soft drinks are available for a contribution. From New London, take State Highway V east out of New London about four miles to State Highway T, then turn north or left on T (old 79) about one mile to Oak Hill Road. Turn right on Oak Hill Road, and the school is a short distance on the left. From Hannibal, take State Highway T (old 79) south about five miles to Old Hill Road, turn left on Oak Hill Road, and again the school will be a short distance on the left.

Unity Sunday

The First Christian Church in Palmyra and Olivet Christian Church in Center will celebrate Unity Sunday on June 28. Both congregations will join in one worship service at 11:00 a.m. at Olivet Christian Church. A meal will follow the service with the Olivet congregation providing meat, vegetables and drink.

RCCBA To Meet

The Ralls County Community Betterment Association will meet on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Forget-Me-Not Senior Citizens Center in New London. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Blood Drive

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Ralls County Health Department on Wednesday, July 8, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

There is currently a low inventory of blood and all eligible donors are asked to come out and donate. Especially needed are O-, A-, and B- blood types.

rche@tds.net
rche.pub@tds.net
rche.ads@tds.net

Area Deaths

• Lois Jo Hodges, 83
• Arnold Junior Lucas, 74
Obituaries On Page 5

NL Man Finds Another Long-Lost Sister

By Carolyn Trower

In 2003, New London resident Kenneth O'Malley met his sisters, twins Pamela and Priscilla, for the first time. They were turning 60 and he was 62. It was the culmination of a long and sometimes frustrating search.

O'Malley was born in Boston to a young woman who placed him in foster care when he was six months old. "I grew up not knowing where I had come from or who my parents were," said O'Malley. He began his search in the late 1950's shortly after he was released from foster care. There were times when the search slowed and months went by without any new information.

Finally in the early spring of 2003, a call from a lawyer in California opened a floodgate. O'Malley's uncle Martin who lived in San Francisco had died. His estate had been left to O'Malley, his twin sisters and his mother. That was the first O'Malley knew of any siblings, the first real lead in the long search for family. The lawyer asked, "...how did all three of you end up in Missouri?" O'Malley replied, "I said what do you mean all three of us?" The lawyer couldn't give O'Malley any



(Submitted Photo)

Kenneth O'Malley and sister Patricia

information but he said he could call the sisters and after that it would be up to them to initiate any further contact. "After about an hour, they called," said O'Malley. After a week of long telephone conversations, the three met for the first time in Kingdom City on April 14.

The twins lived in St. Roberts, 170 miles away. Since the first visit, the three have been in close touch, talking

on the phone several times a week and visiting back and forth. O'Malley has connected with many other family members and has enjoyed family reunions and gatherings throughout the last six years.

Pamela and Priscilla had been in touch with their mother who was back in Boston. She never told them anything about O'Malley. And although she had called O'Malley and even said she

wanted to come to New London, she never did. And she never told him about the twin girls who had been born in Texas in 1943 and left at their grandmother's house in Massachusetts as toddlers.

There was another secret their mother hadn't told them. Through papers from the DDS in Massachusetts they learned of another child, thought to have been a boy. "On the paper it said another child, April 1945," said O'Malley.

The search continued but without any success. Then a nephew from Florida found all three of them while researching adoption records of his mother, Patricia. Again phone calls were made. "My sister called me early this spring and she said, 'Brother, it ain't a brother, it's a sister. And they found us!'"

When the family met for their reunion in St. Roberts on May 18, 2009, they met Patricia and two of her three children. The nephew's search had been for twin sisters. For seven years he had looked and when he finally found a family connection, it was a brother, Kenneth O'Malley, who led him to the twins in St. Roberts.

As tough as it had been searching on and off for almost 40 years, O'Malley harbors no animosity toward his

mother. About the young woman who gave up four children, he said, "She couldn't take care of us. It wasn't easy then, you know, to be unmarried and to have kids."

None of the siblings know anything about their father. "We were shuffled around like a deck of cards," said O'Malley. Their mother died in Boston in 2007. His mother's sister is in her nineties and living in Massachusetts. There are cousins in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. "Mother never told any of us anything about each other," said O'Malley. "She took everything to the grave."

His advice to those who are seeking lost family members is the same as in 2003. "Don't give up. Keep on going. You want something, you gotta look for it, work for it. There's a lot of dead ends. I looked for years and years. I never gave up. Sisters didn't."

O'Malley grows pensive and speculates, "Why would you have children, like me, and dump me off, then have two more, get rid of them, then have another one and dump them, then go on. It doesn't make sense. But we're all four together now. Mother can look down on us and we know each other."



T. Lake | RCHE

Downtown Art

As part of the Ralls County Community Betterment Association's efforts to utilize New London's downtown buildings and showcase local artists, paintings by Holly Dehner are being displayed for passersby. Here, cousins Dillon Barr (partially obscured), Will Coose, and Madison Jensen enjoy an outing to view the artwork.

NL Post Office To Close At Noon July 3

The New London Post Office will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 3, to allow retail employees to spend more time with their families. The last collection is 12:00 noon for mail deposited in blue collection boxes that day. All collection points that have a regularly scheduled collection time prior to 12:00 noon on Friday, July 3, will be collected as scheduled. Regular mail delivery for July 3 will be unaffected by the change.

"As many businesses close early on July 3," said Postmaster Mike Lanier, "the number of customers visiting our lobbies greatly diminishes. We view this as an opportunity to afford retail employees more time with their families by closing retail operations in most of our locations early on July 3."

Commercial customers are asked to check with their Bulk Mail Acceptance Unit for July 3 hours of operation. To ob-

tain the phone number of a specific Post Office, customers may call 1-800-ASK-USPS.

Post Office retail counters will be closed on Saturday, July 4, (Independence Day—a federal holiday) and there will be no mail delivery.

Post Offices retail counters will resume regularly scheduled hours of operation on Monday, July 6.

The RCHE's front page and legals/classifieds page are posted each week on www.rallscountypaper.com

Marshall Earns Certification In Wastewater Operations

Roger Marshall, employee of the City of New London, recently earned the C Level Certification for Wastewater Operations.

As an employee of the City, he attended sessions and trainings with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to attain this certification.

Roger started with the city in February of 2004, work-

ing in City Maintenance. In addition to training received from the Department of Natural Resources, he has also attended training with the Missouri Rural Water Association. Marshall has achieved Certification Levels required by the State that include DS II Water Operator, General Education Diploma and Commercial Driver's License.

Ralls Flood Buyouts To Be Announced Shortly

Rep. Rachel Bringer announced that the new director of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Paul Parmenter, visited Ralls County on June 22 to discuss the residential buyout process from the 2008 flood.

On July 28, 2008, Rep. Bringer had hosted the first buyout meetings with SEMA in the state of Missouri from the June 2008 flooding. The meetings were held in Saver-ton and Hannibal, and following the meetings, Ralls County chose to pursue residential buyouts, and the City of Hannibal chose to participate in residential and commercial buyouts.

"I have been concerned about the progress of the buyout process and began communicating my concerns with SEMA in January 2009," said Rep. Bringer. "After many communications over the past several months, I ap-

preciate the willingness of the SEMA director to address the unresolved issues in the buyout process in today's meeting."

The SEMA director and two SEMA staff members met with Rep. Bringer, the Ralls County Commissioners and other representatives of Ralls County government, as well as a representative of the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments at the Ralls County Courthouse in New London. SEMA indicated at the meeting that the residences chosen for buyout in Ralls County will possibly be announced within the next two to three weeks.

"I appreciate the commitment of the new director of SEMA to continue working closely with Ralls County as the buyout process continues to move forward," said Rep. Bringer.

Gilmore Felony Charge Amended To Misdemeanor

Lee Gilmore, of Bowling Green, was sentenced in Ralls County Circuit June 10 on charges relating to an incident which occurred in Perry on April 3 when he was arrested and charged with assaulting a law officer, a felony offense.

The Ralls County prosecuting attorney amended the charge to misdemeanor assault in the third degree. Gilmore was sentenced to one year in the county jail. How-

ever, he was granted a suspended execution sentence and placed on supervised probation for one year.

Gilmore was also ordered to complete 40 hours of community service for the city of Perry within 120 days. He was also ordered to complete psychiatric evaluation at the Arthur Center and to follow their recommendations and to personally apologize to Perry Police Chief Ron Howard.

New London Notes

Movie In The Park

The New London Park Board will sponsor a Movie in the Park on June 27.

The movie, "Mall Cop," will be shown at the New London Community Park at dark. Bring a blanket, refreshments and bug spray. There is no cost to attend.

FIREWORKS NOTICE

Fire works will be allowed in the City of New London only on July 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.