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Southeast Missouri's News and Entertainment Community

October 23, 2014



**PB'S SELF-FUNDED
HEALTH INSURANCE
CONSULTANT BID**

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What Lies Behind the Poplar Bluff Chamber's Survey?

SEMO TIMES

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From the Publisher's Desk



On Sept. 23, a committee of seven city employees unanimously recommended that city council accept Aon as their health insurance consultant over a local company's less expensive bid. The council voted to approve the recommendation.

The next day, our Rust-owned daily proclaimed "City shuns cheaper local bid" and misrepresented that it was the city manager who made the recommendation to take the non-local bid.

The first eleven paragraphs of the article painted a city council and city manager who did all they could to take the city's health business "overseas." Buried on page 2 in paragraph 12, the report finally mentioned the employee committee recommendation.

The next day the paper featured a completely uninformed editorial claiming that Kaplan and the council slapped the face of local businesses.

I find the willful disregard for facts both insulting and disgraceful.

Brian Becker,
Publisher SEMO TIMES



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER



A MATTER OF FAITH - THE MOVIE
AMC SHOWPLACE 8, PB



NIGHTMARE AT KINYON SCHOOL
KINYON SCHOOL, POPLAR BLUFF
CHECK SEMO.NET FOR TIMES



THE HAUNTED GROTTTO
CHECK SEMO.NET FOR TIMES



**IRON MOUNTAIN MARKET
FALL FESTIVAL**
TRAIN DEPOT, PB 9:00AM



HALLOWEEN BATFEST
MCLANE PARK, POPLAR BLUFF
SEE PAGE 7



**DONIPHAN 3RD ANNUAL HAUNTED DOWN-
TOWN SPOOKTACULAR**
REGISTRATION AT COLTON'S 9:30AM

A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER



BAH! HUMBUG!
TINNIN FINE ARTS, THREE RIVERS



THREE RIVERS 2ND ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT
POPLAR BLUFF ELKS LODGE 6:00-10:00PM

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PB's Self-funded Health Insurance Consultant Bid

POPLAR BLUFF – When Kaplan came on board on August 18, he was faced with the city's self-funded health insurance nearing a \$3,000,000 deficit. His first step in getting out of such a huge hole was to find a health insurance consultant. A request for bids was sent out.

The city received two qualified bids for insurance consultants.

The low bid of \$68,000 was submitted by First Community Insurance of Poplar Bluff.

A bid of \$85,000 was submitted by AON, an international company.

To evaluate the two bids, a committee comprised of seven employees from different departments within the city was formed. Committee members included Deputy Chief Jeff Rolland as chairman along with Steven Burkhead, Gail Barriner, Chris DeGaris, Jason Ruesler, Sandy Walker and Robert Monroe.

The employee committee met for several days, evaluating each of the bids on eight criteria. The committee also interviewed the representatives from both companies. The city clerk, financial manager and city manager were not allowed to be a part of the selection process.

The employee committee selected the higher bid from AON as the health insurance consultant. The council accepted and endorsed their recommendation with a 5-2 vote.

After the committee recommendation had been made, and before the council vote, agents from First Community Insurance came to the podium and stated, "We can provide the same service for \$17,000 less."

Chairman Rolland was asked by Mayor Pearson to respond as to why the committee chose AON over First Community Insurance.

Rolland pointed out that GBL had "grouped with First Community Insurance"

for a local presence.

The City has a "Local Purchasing Preference Policy" which prefers local when it is within 3 percent of the lowest bid. In this case, the local bid was the lowest. There are other requirements as well in City Code Section 140.080 which state "at least 51 percent of the value of the total work" and "60 percent of the work" must be performed locally.

SEMO TIMES contacted Eric Wilcoxon of First Community Insurance. Wilcoxon said "\$12 of the \$20 per employee monthly fee would have stayed within this agency" which equates to 60 percent. Wilcoxon also wanted to correct the record that First Community sought out GBL after evaluating all of the service providers they had available to them.

He also said that First Community does not currently have any self-funded customers in their agency at this time but that GBL has many.

The city codes state that the bids from a local vendor must be "substantially equal to or better than other bids received" to give preference. That is where it appears the GBL/First Community bid fell short to AON.

Rolland expressed that during the interview process, AON appeared more readily available to come and work with the city employees than GBL. AON has an office in St Louis, about 150 miles closer than GBL's Iowa-based offices.

Rolland said the committee felt that AON had a better reach into the insurance markets and that AON's proposal would give the employees more options and, "hopefully, [give] the city bigger discounts to help work out of the situation we currently find ourselves in."

The employee committee rated both bids on the following criteria: Understanding of Work, Compliance with Specifications, Staff Expertise / Qualifications,

Similar Experience, Company History / Background, Past Performance, References and Cost.

The overall score for the two bids was: GBL - 47.95; AON - 53.95.

Of course, GBL/First Community scored highest in the cost category and both companies scored the same in Specification Compliance and Company History.

But in each of the other five categories, AON's marks were overwhelmingly superior.

In Staff Expertise, all seven employees rated AON better than GBL. In Similar

Experience, six of the seven rated AON better with one employee rating them the same.

Kaplan stated, during the council meeting discussion, that the rating worksheets from each committee member were available to the public by making a sunshine request.

SEMO TIMES asked this week if any other news agencies, citizen group or the chamber requested to see the employee worksheets. City Clerk Kearbey answered, "There have been no other requests."



**Walter Dearing
is focused on
the Bootheel.**

**VOTE WALTER DEARING ON NOVEMBER 4
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 150**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT WALTER DEARING STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SEMO TIMES Editorial

What Lies Behind the Poplar Bluff Chamber's Survey?

Here's a survey question for you:

Do you support and encourage parents taking their child to the doctor if a broken bone is protruding from their arm or leg?

It's a question with only one legitimate answer.

Late last week, Poplar Bluff Chamber President Steve Halter informed city council that the chamber was going to survey its members to "gauge the level of support...on the 'shop local' issue."

The survey question posed to its members by the chamber reads:

Do you support City of Poplar Bluff Ordinance No. 7476 §1, 2-3-2014 <http://ecode360.com/29105589> and encourage organizations such as our city and county governments and local schools/college to spend money on local, qualified firms versus out of town companies?

The survey "answer" is self-evident to the point of absurdity.

SEMO TIMES contacted City Manager Kaplan for his reaction, "I will tell you the same thing I told Mr. Halter by email. I am disappointed that the chamber does not recognize these practices as the norm. We will continue to try to keep funds local; however, I will also seek the best quality product or service for the lowest possible price."

When asked about the survey itself, Kaplan stated he was not sure what to think. He said that two questions will not give "a full picture on where people stand" and that there seemed to be a disproportionate amount of attention placed on the city in survey's preamble.

The chamber distributed their survey results on Wednesday (Oct. 22) stating that 99.2% of the business community answered affirmative to the question.

The city's decision to bid out their services appears to be the impetus behind the chamber's survey. Recent bid selections have been mocked by the Rust-owned daily (see this week's "From the Publisher's Desk" inside front cover) and that in turn has caused a rumble within the community.

The chamber has jumped on the DAR's bandwagon and used social media to jab at the city manager and city council.

SEMO TIMES attempted to ask Halter about the survey question. Over a period of two days, multiple attempts to contact Halter through his chamber's office and cell phones were made. Receiving no response, our questions were sent to his chamber email address.

SEMO TIMES was also curious whether chamber members were warned that answers were not anonymous since ConstantContact.com survey system tags the users' answers to their email address.

No response was received from the chamber.

Butler County commissioners recently selected a Mississippi-based Health Insurance firm over local MHJ Insurance's bid. SEMO TIMES was aware of no public outcry, saw no scathing editorial, and no chamber survey questions were posed.

PB's former city manager and the current vice-chairman of Southern Bank's Executive Board, Doug Bagby, is currently entangled in a slander lawsuit with the city mayor, Angela Pearson. Pearson is also defending against similar claims made by MHJ Insurance whose co-owner, also, sits on the Southern Bank board.

Records show that city contracts for insurance, engineering and auditing services were frequently awarded without bid to fellow Southern Bank board members' companies during Bagby's city manager

tenure.

Within days of taking office, Kaplan used "City Management Association best practices" and invited competitive bids for the city's health insurance consultant, property and casualty insurance, and auditing services.

We feel for 1st Community Insurance for not being awarded the consultant bid. In speaking with Eric Wilcoxon, today, he doesn't agree with the committee's decision, but he accepts it and has moved on.

Prior to this year, his company has not had a chance to bid on these services. His company will submit a bid next week for the city's property and casualty insurance and hopes that if, once again, his company has the low bid...history will not be repeated.

SEMO TIMES supports the city's Local Preference Policy and awarding public contracts to locally-owned businesses by competitive bid wherever possible as long as the bids are equal and in compliance with all requirements.

SEMO TIMES believes that we should trust the employees who served on the committee and selected Aon after carefully grading both companies. Deputy Chief Rolland said it best, "This was a very difficult decision." This committee's unanimous decision to recommend the non-local bid needs to be supported by the Poplar Bluff community.

SEMO TIMES is convinced that if you peel away the layers of the chamber faux-survey, the editorial rants and community frustration, you will find that most of the drama stems from a few companies who are finally being weaned off their cash-cow teat.

**KENT
HAMPTON**
For
Dunklin County
CLERK

This November,
cast your vote for
**Accountability,
Accuracy, and
Accessibility.**

Vote Kent Hampton for
Dunklin County Clerk.



Paid for by the Committee to Elect
Kent Hampton, Carl Richardson,
Jr. Treasurer



Iron Mountain Market Fall Festival

By Tammy Hilderbrand

POPLAR BLUFF – If the cold, blustery winds that blew through downtown Poplar Bluff Saturday kept you away from the Iron Horse Festival a few weeks ago, you'll have a second chance to enjoy downtown fall festivities at the Iron Mountain Market's Fall Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Historic Train Depot. The event will run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizer Rhonda Belcher says she is hoping for perfect weather for the event because there is so much for people to enjoy.

"We have a lot of vendors signed up, and more are added to our list every day," said Belcher. She says the number of vendors signed up are beyond last year's numbers already. Booth spaces are just \$10 for vendors, or \$15 if the vendor requires electricity. Those interested in booth space or who want to help with the event may call Belcher at 573-429-9326, or Jim Chrisman at 573-300-9303.

Among this year's events are a "Grilled Cheese Cook Off" scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Cooking time ends at 2:30 with judges' results being announced at 3 p.m.

"We think the grilled cheese event will be a lot of fun," said Belcher. "Every family has their favorite version of this all-American classic." The only requirement for the grilled cheese entrants is that the sandwich consist of at least 60 percent cheese, but creativity is encouraged. The fee for entering is \$10, and the winner will receive a dinner for two at Colton's Steak House. Each contestant must provide their own

table, burners, cooking utensils, and materials. A prep space and washing station will be provided.

A Costume Contest also begins at 3 p.m. with two age groups, 0-5 and 6-12 years of age. Parents are expected to make sure all costumes are appropriate. The winner of each age group will receive a prize.

Belcher says a highlight of this year's event will be the Kid Fun Area, in which there will be a Bounce House provided by Mills Iron Supply, pony rides, games, and a kids' craft table. Walmart supplied a gift card for supplies to be purchased.

Live entertainment will also be part of this year's event with Kyle Richards, the Cape Arrowhead Kountry Kickers, and several other entertainers.

Sponsors for this year's event include Southern Bank, River Radio, Mills Iron Supply, Walmart, Brick Oven Pizza, The Deep Freeze, Buffalo Wild Wings, Big Lots, Family Video, Colton's Steak House, Bluff Lanes, Ellis Batter, Pepsi, Stand Still Apparel, Larry Hillis Dodge, Robertson Construction, Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center and Mossy Oak Properties.

Part of the proceeds from this event will go to restoration of the Historic Train Depot.

"I really want to thank all the businesses and people who are helping with this event," concluded Belcher. "They are what helps make it a success. This is only our second year for hosting this festival, and we are so happy with the way it continues to grow!"

Vote to Re-Elect

Carol Hinesly

Dunklin County Clerk



Experience Counts
Vote November 4th

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Carol Hinesly – Joe M. Hinesly, Treasurer

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Tammy Marler

(Write In)

Write in her name then fill in arrow



PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARLER, QUINTIN MARLER, TREASURER

Halloween BATFEST

By Tammy Hilderbrand

It's a chance to have a great time, and at the same time raise money for a great cause. That's how Lance Inman characterizes the "Halloween BATFEST" being held Saturday, Oct. 25 at McLane Park in Poplar Bluff.

The event is being sponsored by Lucas Edington of Mossy Oak Properties, Mozark Realty and by Inman with SLAMA Softball Club. The coed softball tournament is to raise money and awareness for Poplar Bluff's Child Concern Center.

The Child Concern Center is an organization designed to help provide clothing, diapers, food, utilities and other emergency items for area low income families in need. The group was originally organized by the women of Poplar Bluff's First United Methodist Church over 35 years ago. Now the organization is a 501(c)3 group registered with the State of Missouri. Its staff is all volunteer.

Inman describes BATFEST as a Hal-

loween-themed tournament. "Players get to dress up in their favorite scary costumes or as super heroes. It's going to be a very kid-friendly atmosphere with a lot of activities for kids, too," said Inman. Some of the children's activities include three-legged races, apple bobbing, face painting and potato sack races.

Twelve teams are expected to participate. "We will have three pools of four teams each in three fields playing. Each team gets three games in the pool play. After pool play, we will have a single elimination tournament to determine a champion," explained Inman.

Each team will consist of five guys and five girls. Homeruns will be limited to three per team, and as an additional fundraiser, homerun bracelets will be available for \$10 per player. Inman said that this event got its start back in January when he and Lucas Edington were talking about ways they could help the Child Concern Center, a favorite cause for both of them.

"I've hosted several charity tournaments in the past, like for UCAN and March of Dimes. So we decided this would be a good event for the Child Concern Center," explained Inman. "Everyone loves dressing up for Halloween, and we know a lot of people love softball," said Inman. "So this just seemed to be a natural combination."

Inman said that a lot of people are not aware of Child Concern Center and all it does for the community. As a lifelong



resident of Poplar Bluff, he's seen the work they do, and feels it is very important for our community.

Trophies and awards will be given out to the players for best costume and other categories.

They certainly deserve it," concluded Inman.

The event organizer said along with money raised through the tournament, the group will be accepting monetary donations along with clothing for all ages, toys for Christmas, non-perishable foods, toiletries and baby items, especially diapers of any size.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$175 per team without team t-shirts, or \$225 with team t-shirts. Each team will play a minimum of 4 games. Those with questions may call Inman at 573-718-1936 or 573-614-4446.

"We really want to make this a fun atmosphere for everyone, and we hope to raise a lot of money for this group.

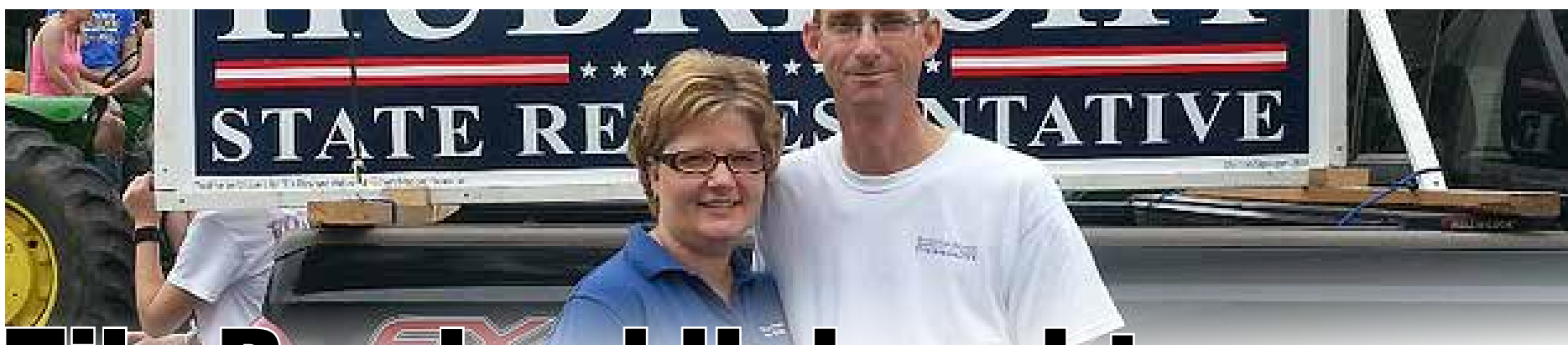


POPLAR BLUFF JUNIOR HIGH MULES





CANDIDATE PROFILES



Tila Rowland Hubrecht

Republican Tila Rowland Hubrecht won the Mo. Dist. 151 representative seat in the last special election. Voters on Nov. 4 will decide if she returns to Jefferson City to fulfill a complete term.

She has had careers as both a teacher and nurse. She said those real-world experiences offered her a unique perspective regarding representing the people of her district.

"I'm committed," she said. "I'm a conservative who supports and represents the common sense values of my district.

"I think much of Southeast Missouri is just forgotten," the representative added. "I am committed to work for change to benefit us all."

Hubrecht said she's experienced the struggles of day-to-day living on restrictive budgets and the struggle her constituents face to make ends meet financially.

"I'd like to see Missouri's economic status bloom," Hubrecht said. "Daily, people here have trouble just making mortgage payments.

"As the new kid in Jefferson City I work closely with established members of the legislature to determine just what I can do to see our economic growth come to fruition," she continued. "I'm very concerned about our job market and the Noranda issue.

"I want to support the work Sen. Li-bla and his office does. We cannot lose Noranda. I was talking about the issue with Stoddard County commissioners. The loss of those jobs would be devastating for the county. It's a very big deal."

In addition to jobs growth and economic

development, Hubrecht also is concerned about improving infrastructure to place more value on quality of life issues in the area.

"We have the rural quality here as well as the benefits cities like Cape and Poplar Bluff have to offer," she said. "A lot of people call us country.

"I don't have a problem with that tag," the representative continued. "We need to improve our quality of life so there are incentives for companies to come in with good, high-paying jobs for our citizens - quality jobs that support families."

Educational opportunities for residents, higher teacher salaries and health care facilities are all distinct areas that Hubrecht said impact her district. She applauded positive changes made at area medical facilities.

"Hospitals continue to grow and expand," Hubrecht said. "There are wonderful neo-natal intensive care units here now.

"Poplar Bluff hospitals have expanded options of services available," she commented. "The ability to keep people closer to home rather than transfer to a different hospital in Memphis or Saint Louis is very important and is a great step forward for Southeast Missouri."

While Hubrecht is proud of area schools, she said the issue of teacher salaries should be reviewed.

"We have awesome schools in our area," Hubrecht noted. "Richland School students and many others from our area travel to different competitions and do well.

"My daughter wants to go into aerospace engineering," she continued. "She has a calculator I can't even turn on. If her math teachers and science teachers can instruct her in those subjects to prepare her for an aerospace engineering major in college, think of the money they could

make in the private sector. We need to maintain control of our schools and teacher salaries need to be revisited."

Hubrecht is a pro-life advocate; a Second Amendment supporter; believes in less government; and places importance on lowering taxes for Missourians.

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Walter Dearing

Walter Dearing feels pretty good about his chances for being elected Mo. Dist. 150 Representative.

Born in Kennett, Dearing was reared on a Dunklin County farm, where he “chopped cotton, picked cotton, pitched watermelons” and decided to pursue a career as a public servant.

“I decided to go into law enforcement,” he told SEMO TIMES. “I was a cop for 41 years.”

He began his career at the Poplar Bluff Police Department in 1973, where he earned \$375 a month. Dearing served in Dunklin County’s law enforcement community beginning four years later, and spent 29 years as an investigator for the prosecuting attorney’s office.

These days, Dearing manages the Missouri Community Services office at Kennett.

“I’ve been in public service my whole life,” Dearing said. “I feel like I’ve proven myself.

“I think I have the trust of the cit-

izens,” he added. “I would properly represent them in Jefferson City. I’m not a politician. I’m one of us, a citizen of Dunklin County.”

Dearing was commander of the Dunklin County Major Case Squad for 13 years, a leadership position he never took lightly. Now, he said that leadership would serve well the people of his district.

“People ask me, ‘What would you be able to do in Jefferson City?’” he said. “Well, change starts with one person, and that’s me.”

The No. 1 issue Dearing wants to address as a state representative is jobs, he said.

“We need to retain the jobs we have,” Dearing said. “Look at Noranda, and the hospital in Hayti.

“We’re in danger of both those places closing,” he continued. “That’s about 1,100 jobs. That’s about 1,100 families without incomes. We need to stabilize our job market and try to add to it. These are not pie-in-the-sky

things. These are some priorities we can work together to achieve.”

In addition, Dearing said four-laning the 17-mile stretch of Missouri 412 between Kennett and Arkansas is necessary for advancing commerce.

“The Arkansas side is done,” he said. “Ours isn’t.

“This is the shortest route for big truck traffic between St. Louis and Little Rock,” the candidate said. “It’s one of the easiest paving jobs the state will ever have. Finishing that highway might attract truck stops and other businesses. That means jobs for this area.”

Also, Dearing noted the need for attention to quality of life issues in the area, and echoed the late state Rep. Otto Bean’s cry to fund fully public schools.

“The money is there to fund the public schools,” he said. “We don’t do it, and I don’t know why.

“We must come to some compromise,” Dearing noted. “This two-party

system is broken. It’s not going anywhere the way it is. We can do it. We don’t, and the people suffer because of it. It’s a party problem that becomes a people problem. That’s not the way government is supposed to work. It makes no sense.”

But what really gets Dearing fired up is the notion of hungry children.

“The school lunch program should be fully funded,” he said. “We can’t keep them from coming to school hungry.

“But we can darn well see they don’t go home that way,” Dearing added. “If we can buy their books and teach them we can feed them, too.”

Dearing is endorsed by the Missouri State Teachers Association; The Fraternal Order of Police; the Missouri Federation of Teachers; and state and local COPE.

Walter Dearing is married to Susan, who he married in 1979.

CANDIDATE PROFILES



Carol Hinesly

Dunklin County Clerk Carol Hinesly was at the office recently, as she was for the last 30 years.

She loves her job serving the people of Dunklin County, and on Nov. 4 the people have the opportunity to re-elect her as their clerk.

"I've worked here under three clerks," the county clerk said. "I have all the experience that 30 years in this office gives you."

Carol started her public service life decades ago helping at the county assessor's office.

"When Billy Horner was county clerk, I wrote the tax books for the assessor and helped collect taxes," Hinesly said. "He did it all as clerk, and hired my mentor Dixie Ross.

"Then I worked for Charles Isbell, who was clerk for 20 years," she continued. "The more you know about the job, the better it becomes, and the better you become at it."

Although she is proud of her staff - she supervises three clerks in her office - Hinesly said she was most proud of instituting a new, computer-based

election system for voters.

"Everything regarding voting is under one roof now," she commented. "It's very cost-effective and efficient.

"Ballots are no longer touched by anybody but the voters at the polling booth," Hinesly added. "We used it in August and the system ran really well."

Carol said all offices at the courthouse are busy, and that's something she looks forward to every day in her job as clerk.

"I love the diversity of this office," she said. "There's something new every day.

"We issue licenses, perform notary duties, aid in elections, taxes, the budget - so many things run through this office.

"It's a large responsibility," Hinesly continued. "And one I've been happy to do."

A lifelong Democrat, Hinesly was born in Iowa, and married Joe Mel Hinesly 38 years ago. The couple belongs to the Hornersville Methodist Church.



Kent Hampton

Malden's Kent Hampton said serving people is why we're all here on earth.

He's served 38 years as a manager at Noranda, the largest employer in southeast Missouri; two terms in the Missouri House of Representatives; and as a deacon for 14 years at First Southern Baptist Church at Malden.

Now, at age 66, he wants to continue serving as Dunklin County's next clerk. He faces incumbent Carol Hinesly on Nov. 4.

"I bring a different perspective to the job," Hampton told SEMO TIMES. "More transparency.

"I want to encourage people to come to the courthouse," the candidate continued. "I want them to know I'm their friend and neighbor. I enjoy meeting and helping people. As a public servant, I'm here to listen, learn and assist. That's why God gave us two ears and one mouth. It's more important to listen than to speak."

He added that many people aren't even sure of the clerk's day-to-day responsibilities.

"That's another reason I want to invite people to come to the courthouse," Hampton said. "I want to invite school groups to come.

"It's not that expensive a deal to load

up a school bus and bring it to Kennett to see county governmental offices and understand what goes on," he added. "Public servants have that opportunity. And people, especially young people, have the right to know."

Hampton noted he's made three promises to voters during his campaign.

"I call them the three A's," he said. "Accountability; Accuracy; and Accessibility.

"I believe in taking a pro-active approach to issues rather than a reactive one," the candidate noted. "I don't consider public service working for myself. It is an honor to be a public servant. As county clerk, I would consider it an honor working for the citizens of Dunklin County."

Although he is a Republican who faces a lifelong Democrat for the clerk's position, Hampton said he doesn't consider the election a political race.

"It's so the citizens have the opportunity to choose who they feel is best qualified to serve as their county clerk," he said.

Kent Hampton is married to Janice Hampton. The couple reside at Malden and expect their first great-grandchild early next year.



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THIS WEEK ON SEMO.NET

- 10:14 **BUTLER COUNTY**

OCT 22, 2014

Student Scores Among Top In Nation On Preliminary SAT

Poplar Bluff High School Principal Mike Kiehne recently presented senior Namara Haq a letter of comm...
- 9:58 **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI**

OCT 22, 2014

Walter Dearing, Candidate For Mo. Dist. 150 Representative

Walter Dearing feels pretty good about his chances for being elected Mo. Dist. 150 Representative. B...
- 9:25 **BUTLER COUNTY**

OCT 22, 2014

Students Named To All-District Choir

Several Poplar Bluff High School students under the instruction of vocal music director Joshua Allen...
- 9:16 **POPLAR BLUFF**

OCT 22, 2014

Shots fired at Bacon Park

Poplar Bluff Police are currently investigating a reported drive-by shooting that occurred Tuesday e...
- 8:57 **ADVERTISER**

OCT 22, 2014

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- 19:03 **PRESS RELEASE**

OCT 21, 2014

Gov. Nixon To Create Commission To Address Issues Raised By Events In Ferguson

ST. LOUIS COUNTY – Gov. Jay Nixon today announced that he will create an independent commission to...

OUTDOORS



By Paul Woods

It won't be long before big hunting seasons arrive in Missouri. Waterfowl hunting will begin October 25-26 with the youth hunt. The regular season in the Middle Zone which encompasses Lake Wappapello, Duck Creek, and Otter Slough and the rest of the area around these locations begins November 1 continuing through December 30.

Be sure to check your Waterfowl Hunting Digest you should get when you purchase your license. If you do not have a Waterfowl pamphlet, there is no charge and you can pick one up anywhere they sell hunting or fishing permits.

I was reminded the other afternoon that the Missouri Fish Giggling season is open. I saw a boat rigged with lights heading out Highway 60 toward the "hot spot," Current River.

I have never giggered fish and at my age probably never will. I did get a taste of fried suckers at Grubbs Hollow a few years ago. It was about as cold as it could be on a late October night and as Charles Grubb had set this fish-fry up well in advance, my wife and I traveled to the location. When we got there they had a giant bonfire going and you didn't need to stand very close to the fire to stay warm.

A boat was on the river trying for some suckers so we could clean and fry them but they came in empty handed. It didn't

matter as they had plenty ready to fry. I had visualized eating scores of fish bones but the food was good and I almost never found a bone in the mouthfuls that I had.

The fish giggering didn't turn out good but the fellowship was great. I can still remember that night as it is one of the highlights I enjoyed with good company on the banks of the Current River in late October.

My wife has been assisting me with the pictures that are appearing with the column and asked me, "What about this one?" as she handed me a photo of Herb Piper and me with a bag limit of mallard ducks.

When I went to work at the DAR, Piper was just one of the crew, as Hinkle Wilson was foreman. After Wilson suffered some health problems and retired, Piper was named foreman. I knew he was a fishing addict but little did I realize he liked duck hunting. We even went squirrel hunting once, but he found out his hearing impairment kept him from having any luck.

On this particular duck hunt, we both worked until we got the paper out at noon. Everything was ready. All we had to do was put the outboard motor on the Feathercraft boat and crank it up; less than 10 minutes from Chaonia Landing we were in the blind and waiting.

We didn't have long to wait as the ducks were flying and ready to decoy. We got a



couple bunches to work the decoys and each of us got a pair of mallards from each flock. We were hunting in what was called the millet field. It was called that because the Corps of Engineers planted millet each year and it really did attract the ducks.

Herb was an excellent caller after I gave the highball to get their attention. One group came past us and probably got almost half a mile away and I kept calling and finally they turned around to get a closer look. It took about 30 minutes working them before they decided we were the real deal and came within range.

We had been in the blind for less than two hours and Herb looked at his watch and announced he could get home in time for his son's football practice; which we did.

I am proud to announce that on Hallow-

een my wife and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. We met at a Halloween party at church in 1952, and married on Halloween 1954.

I don't tell her as often as I should how much I love her, but I do. Our kids, Mike and Paula usually throw a party for us but so far I haven't gotten wind of anything for this year.

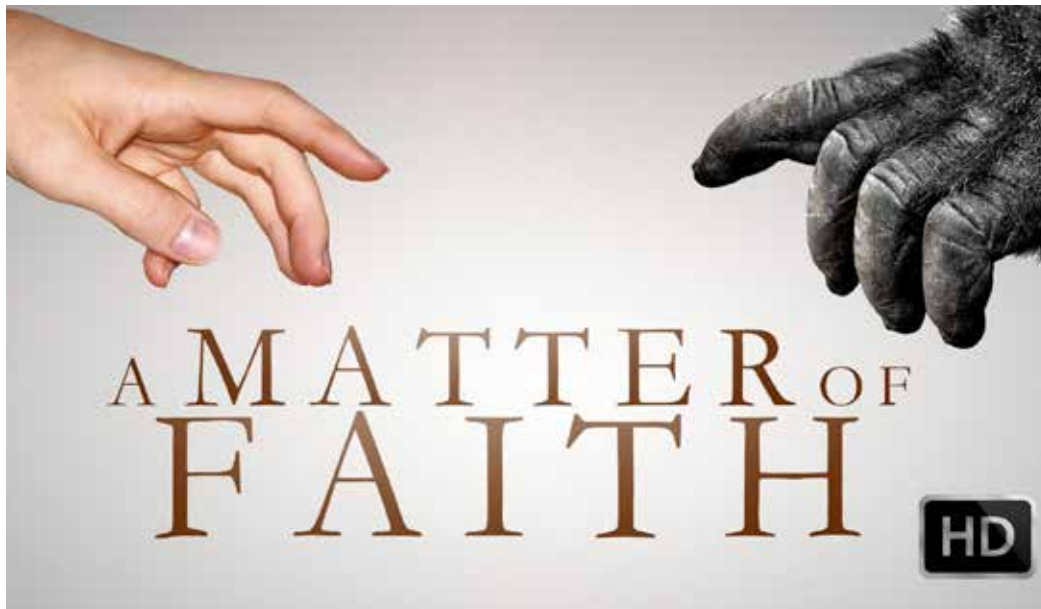
We spent our 25th anniversary at Niagara Falls following the tragic accident that took our son Doug (Mud Duck) Woods' life. We miss him every day.

It is amazing the amount of his friends that come up and ask us from time to time, "Are you Mud Duck's parents?" They tell us something good he had done for them. It makes us proud we raised him as we did.

Mills Iron & Supply, Poplar Bluff, Mo

True Value

PREVIEW



A Matter of Faith – The Movie

By Tammy Hilderbrand

Tim Funke sees October 24-30 as a week to put faith in motion.

That is the week scheduled for the film, “A Matter of Faith,” to be shown at Poplar Bluff’s AMC Showplace Theatre.

The film is about a Christian girl who goes off to college for her freshman year. Once there, she is heavily influenced by her biology professor, who teaches that evolution is the answer to the origins of life on earth.

Her father decides he needs to take action in order to keep his daughter from drifting away from her foundations of faith.

Funke says he first ran across the movie on a website, and it struck a chord with him.

“I just hate bad science,” explained Funke. “I don’t care whether the topic is global warming or evolution, there are a lot of people who will throw those out to you as fact, without any real basis.”

He continues to believe those of faith must speak out equally strongly about the faith side of the story.

After checking out the movie, he

found that it wasn’t being shown everywhere.

“Basically, I found out that to bring it to Poplar Bluff, we had to pay the costs of getting the movie here, and we had to be able to promise to sell at least 1,000 tickets,” explained Funke.

As a long-time owner of Aire Solutions in Poplar Bluff, and as a member of both the business and faith communities, Funke felt led to get the film to Poplar Bluff.

“We’ve had a lot of good feedback from folks, and we’ve had some pre-sold tickets, but I’m guessing the majority of people who want to see it will just show up to buy tickets at the door. But all indications are that this film will do very well in Poplar Bluff,” said Funke.

“It really is one of those films that family and friends can go to see and feel that they’ve seen something of real value. It could even change someone’s life,” explained Funke. “That is very rare these days. So often we go to see things that have no real lasting value for us. This is something worth seeing.”

There are many new, exciting things happening for Poplar Bluff many of

which originate in hearts and minds of citizens, like Funke, who aren’t afraid to personally advance their positive vision for the city they love. Poplar Bluff’s future is bright because of the

passion of its citizens to actively bring positive, valuable opportunities to our community that are both inspiring and encouraging.



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