MARE Focus

AUGUST 3, 2026 | FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

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MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- **LEGAL HOTLINE: EDCOUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY**
- **EDPLUS**
- **AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE**
- **GIRLS STATE**

MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

2026-2027 Superintendent Searches

– MARE prides itself in providing a thorough, district-focused and economical Superintendent Search service. If you are making plans to retire or leave your current district next year, please give MARE an opportunity to visit with your district about our Superintendent Search Program. We have a team of seven former district Superintendents who make up our search team. For the sixth year in a row, MARE has provided more facilitated searches than any other entity in the state. Please contact Kevin Sandlin, Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or ksandlin@moare.com for more information.

New Search Postings Coming Soon!

2026 MARE/MO K-8 Conference

– Our conference is scheduled October 21st through October 23rd at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Make plans now to join us. More information can be found on the MARE website at www.moare.com.

..\2026 Conference Folder\2026 Conference Registration.pdf

..\2026 Conference Folder\2026 Exhibitor & Sponsor Registration (1).pdf

..\2026 Conference Folder\2026 Exhibitor & Sponsor Registration (2).pdf

Final tweaks are being made to the Conference Planner document and the General Session Listing and Small Group Session Listing. These documents will be included with the next MARE Focus and posted to the website soon. This is going to be a great conference! Please make your plans now to join us!

2026-2027 District Membership Invoices

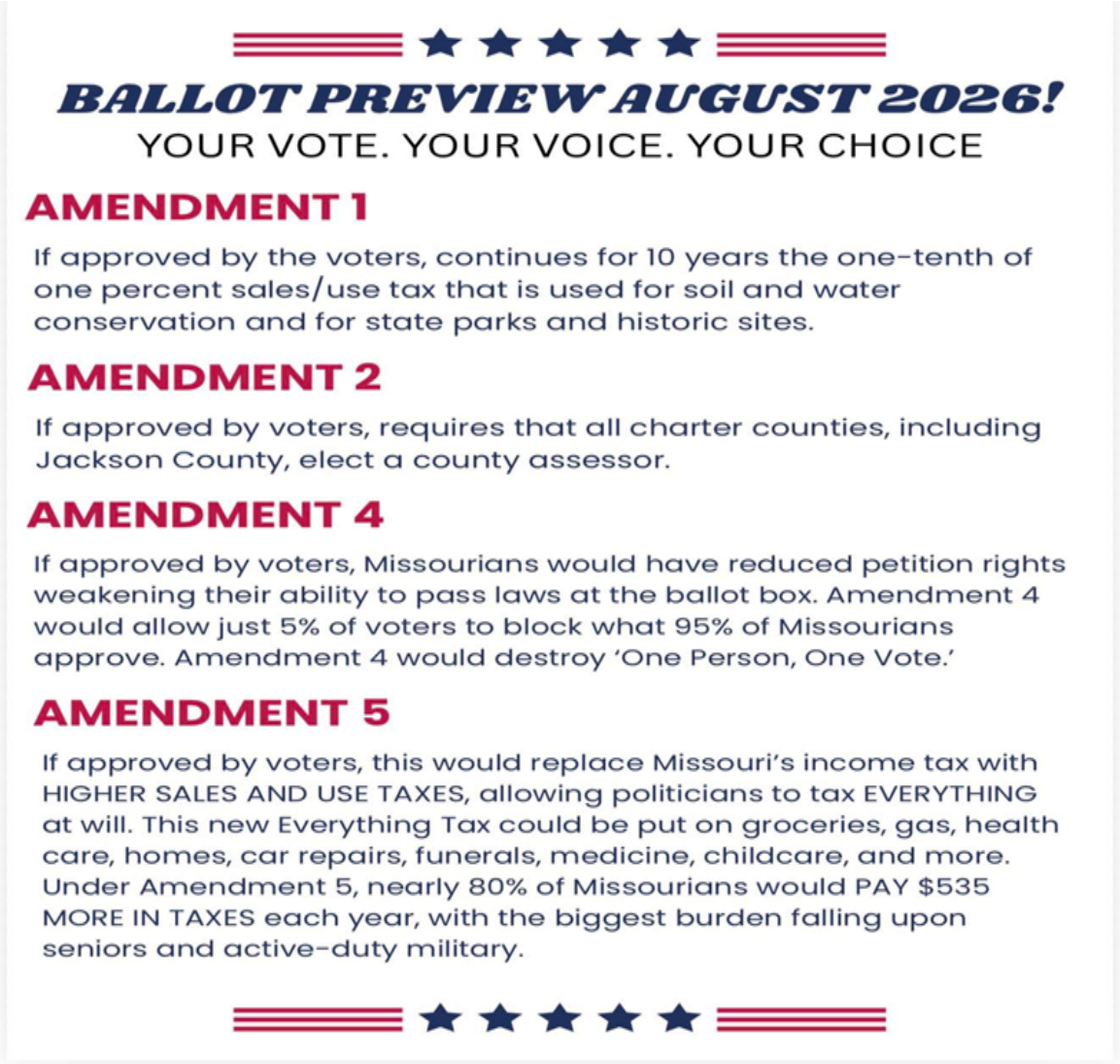
– Membership invoices for 2026-2027 will be mailed on June 17, 2026. Please be on the lookout for the mailing addressed to the District Superintendent. Membership invoices should be paid by September 16, 2026! If you have any questions regarding your status as a MARE member, please reach out to me. If you are not a current member, we would love to have you join the other 422 MARE member school districts across the state!

Foundation Formula Modernization Task Force

— The next meeting is on Monday, August 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Jeff City. **Scenarios are on the horizon!** For more information on this work, please check out the website at this link: Missouri School Funding Modernization Task Force. **Please note and share the link below for community input on this process.**

Submit Comments to DESE Task Force

Ballot Measures for Tuesday, August 4th – It is imperative that we share this information and rally voters to take a stand on Tuesday, August 4th! Amendment 4 & Amendment 5 are of utmost importance! Please share!



More Information on Amendment 5 – Please review and share!

Just an FYI for anyone interested in the potential impacts of Amendment 5 on Missouri public school districts clients. If you go to **Across the Aisle for Missouri Public Schools'** website (**AAMPS.US**) and click on the Amendment 5 tab (Amendment 5 - Across the Aisle for Missouri Public Schools), you will find a wealth of information about the topic. Please feel free to share.

Quote of the Week

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful." - Albert Schweitzer

MSPMA – Opportunities for Conference & Facilities/Equipment

Our conference is open for registration at www.mspma.com.

The 2 items that I've attached are: The conference scholarship for districts that have not been to our conference, or haven't participated in several years due to new leadership. We waive all fees and cover 1 hotel room for 2 nights in the conference center (very nice accommodations). Also, we have made some surplus funds available ($500,000) for districts to upgrade their facility care equipment (scrubbers, buffers, mowers, etc.) It's a low interest loan for 24 months with 4 pay cycles. Schools can then negotiate their best price, or purchase used equipment and not be entangled to a loan situation that doesn't always work well.

MSPMA Equipment Fund Flyer
MSPMA - New District Scholarship Fund

Opportunity to Recognize Outstanding Staff

The Missouri Association of Rural Education will present awards for outstanding performance in the area of rural education. Four such awards will be given during the luncheon on **Thursday, October 22nd** as part of the Annual MARE/MO K-8 Conference at The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri. One award will be presented in each of the following areas.

- ***Outstanding Rural Teacher (1 award)***
  (Teachers from any grade level are eligible.)
- **Outstanding Rural Support Staff Member (1 award)**
  (Secretaries, aides, cafeteria employees, bus drivers, bookkeepersetc.)
- ***Outstanding Rural Administrator (1 award)***
  (Principals and Superintendents are eligible.)
- ***Outstanding Rural School District (1 award)***
  (Any MARE member school district is eligible.)

To submit a nomination for an award, please complete the nomination form for each nominee. (No limit on number of nominees a school district may submit.) A minimum of three support letters is needed to validate the nomination. The support letters should provide information explaining why the individual or school district is being nominated. Nominations may be submitted by:

- Completing the nomination form on the MARE website and linked here 2026 Outstanding Rural Education Awards Nomination Form or
- Mailing or emailing (ksandlin@moare.com) all the requested information in an envelope marked, **"Award Nomination"** to the MARE office at the addressed listed above.

All nominations & materials must be received by 12:00 noon on Friday, September 25, 2026 to be eligible for consideration by the Awards Committee!

MARE/MO K-8 Conference - October 21st-23rd

Board Training Schedule for 2026 – See dates/locations below!

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, August 14, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, August 15, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 22, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- Friday, December 4, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 5, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

***** Please share this information with any new Board member who has not completed the 18.5 hours of required training! MARE is an approved Board Training provider!**

To register, please contact ksandlin@moare.com

American Heart Association – Our friends with the American Heart Association have reached out share information regarding rural health concerns and issues. Please access the links below to find more useful information. Share within your education community!

The one thing I'll add to this conversation is around the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan piece given that it is state law now. The below paragraph may add some additional context and be useful for sharing in some fashion:

- Last summer, Governor Parson, in seeking to strengthen community level preparedness, signed SB 68. The bill requires every school to have a **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan** by the **start of the 2026-2027 school year.** Missouri joined a growing number of states in working to ensure the cardiac arrest chain of survival is strong in schools, an effort that is often especially important in rural areas given longer EMS response and transport times. Because this work is so important, groups like the **American Heart Association** and the **Missouri EMS Association** are working to support schools in building out – and executing - strong plans. More information – including potential funding – can be found **here** and schools can reach out to the American Heart Association for technical assistance using this **quick survey** or by contacting the Association's Rural Health Director for Missouri: **Tim.Nikolai@heart.org**.

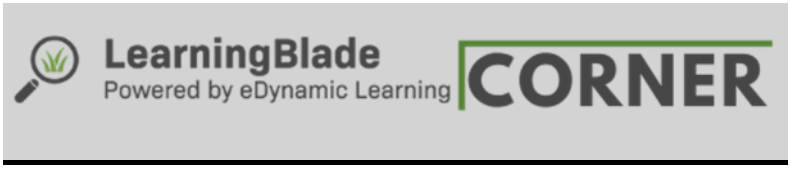
..\Newsletter Content MARE July2026.pdf
..\Presentation - Rural MO.pdf
..\AHA Rural Health Update (07.26).pdf

2026 MARE College Scholarship Recipients

Student	College Attending
Garrett Austin	Missouri State University - Lebanon
Darcy Elizalde	Missouri State University - SP
Delaney Feldmann	Columbia College
Laydon Fields	Northwest Missouri State University
Seanny Freeman	Hannibal-LaGrange University
Josie Gilbert	Missouri Southern State University
Bethany Ginnings	Drury University – St. Robert
Michaela Grannemann	Missouri State University - WP
Melanie Hartman	Missouri Southern State University
Terra Huffman	Central Methodist University
Lyndsey King	North Central Missouri College
Kiley Mattson	Northwest Missouri State University
Abagail Mooney	Culver-Stockton College
Andrew Nix	Southeast Missouri State University
Hannah Phillips	Missouri State University – SP
Cora Pittsenbarger	Missouri Southern State University
Clare Scott	Missouri State University – WP
Kamryn Stubenrauch	Southeast Missouri State University

Check out the article on the MARE website featuring photos of these students receiving their awards!

Learning Blade Corner – Back to School



Kick Off the School Year with Learning Blade

As students head back to school, there's no better time to introduce engaging lessons that connect learning to real-world careers. We're proud to recognize Tonji Stringfellow, Learning Blade's 2025-2026 Missouri Educator of the Year, for creating those meaningful learning experiences.

"My students were introduced to the world of AI and learned how technology has changed over time as well as future predictions of how AI will be an integral part of their world. As a result of participating in the Learning Blade missions, my students are demonstrating strong academic growth across content areas as measured by our district's assessment." Read more about Tonji's impact here.

As you prepare for the new school year, remember that Learning Blade is available to schools across Missouri at no cost. Get started with your free account here.

MOCAAT – What Can You Do for Me?

MOCAAT™



MARE is 422 Member School Districts Strong!

When the School Becomes the Command Center – Jesse Uhlmeyer

Every community has a place people instinctively trust.
When life is normal, it may be where children learn to read, teenagers perform in concerts, parents gather for ballgames, and neighbors vote on important issues. It is where holiday programs bring generations together and graduates cross a stage before stepping into the next chapter of life.
When life is not normal, that same place may be asked to become something entirely different.
Earlier this month, following historic flash flooding in south-central Missouri, Arcadia Valley Elementary School became a command post for first responders and emergency personnel. Inside a building created for teaching children, teams coordinated searches, shared information, and managed a massive emergency response. The combined efforts of local responders, the Missouri National Guard, state agencies, and other emergency personnel helped save hundreds of lives.
The sign outside still said **Elementary School**.
But in that moment, it became much more.
That image has stayed with me—not because it represents a rare departure from the role of a rural school, but because it reveals the role these schools quietly play every day.
A rural school is never just a school.

The Building We Count On

When rural education is discussed, the conversation often centers on enrollment, test scores, transportation costs, staffing shortages, building utilization, and funding formulas.
Those conversations matter.
But they do not tell the whole story.
In many small towns, the school is one of the few places designed to bring an entire community together. It has meeting spaces, kitchens, parking, communication systems, buses, shelter, and people who know nearly every family by name.
It is more than educational infrastructure.
It is community infrastructure.
That distinction matters because, when uncertainty arrives, people do not gather around a spreadsheet.
They gather where trust already exists.

This Is Not an Isolated Occurrence

If the response at Arcadia Valley Elementary were the only example, it would still be remarkable.
But it is not.
On June 27, 2022, an Amtrak train carrying nearly 300 people derailed near Mendon, Missouri, after striking a dump truck at a rural crossing. The crash killed four people and injured many others.
In the hours that followed, emergency responders needed a place to evaluate passengers, treat the injured, reunite families, coordinate resources, and manage a response far larger than the surrounding community would ordinarily face.
They turned to Northwestern High School.
Passengers who were able to walk were transported by school buses to the high school gymnasium. The school became a triage center where injured passengers received medical evaluations and emergency personnel coordinated the next steps in their care.
The sign outside still said **High School**.
But for that day, it became a place of treatment, coordination, and refuge.
These events were separated by several years and more than 200 miles, but they tell the same story.
When disaster reaches a rural community, people often do not have to ask where they should gather.
They already know.
They go to the school.

Trust Is Built Before It Is Needed

One of the greatest misconceptions about leadership is that it begins when a crisis occurs.
It does not.
Leadership during a crisis is the visible result of relationships built during ordinary days.
Arcadia Valley Elementary did not become a command post simply because it had enough rooms.
Northwestern High School did not become a triage center only because it had a gym.
Those buildings were useful, but usefulness alone does not explain why communities turn to their schools.
They turn to them because schools are familiar.
They are accessible.
They are connected.
Most importantly, they are trusted.
That trust was not created when the floodwaters rose or when the train left the tracks. It was built over years of opening doors, feeding children, communicating with families, hosting community events, solving problems, and showing up when people needed help.
The crisis did not create the school's value.

It revealed it.
The same is true for leaders.
People rarely decide whom to trust in the middle of an emergency. By then, that decision has usually already been made.
Trust is earned through thousands of moments that seem small at the time: returning a phone call, listening before responding, telling the truth when it is uncomfortable, following through on a promise, and remaining steady when others are not.
Extraordinary leadership is usually built through ordinary consistency.

The Value We Cannot Measure

Education has become increasingly focused on measurement.
We count attendance.
We compare achievement.
We monitor graduation rates.
We calculate costs.
We evaluate efficiency.
Those measurements are necessary, but they are incomplete.
How do we calculate the value of the building where first responders coordinate searches?
How do we measure the worth of a gymnasium transformed into a triage center?
How do we place a dollar amount on the familiar location where families gather during the most unfamiliar moments of their lives?
There is no box for that on a state report card.
There is no line for it in a funding formula.
No efficiency study can fully capture the value of an institution that becomes a community's gathering place, shelter, communication hub, treatment center, or command post when everything else feels uncertain.
Some of the most important things a rural school provides are only noticed when they are suddenly needed.

Rural Leadership Is Close to the Work

This is part of what makes leadership from a rural perspective different.
In a small community, leadership is not something you turn on when you enter the office and turn off when you leave.
You see students at the grocery store.
You sit near parents at church.
You wave to board members while filling your vehicle with gas.
You see teachers at the county fair, the ballpark, and the local restaurant.
Your title may be printed on the office door, but your reputation is built everywhere else.
Rural leadership happens close to the people being served.
That closeness brings challenges, but it also teaches an important lesson:
The work is never only about the work.
It is about relationships.
It is about credibility.
It is about becoming dependable enough that people know where to turn before they need to turn there.

Open Doors Are a Leadership Decision

The rural schools in these stories did not become important because someone issued a press release.
They became important because people opened the doors.
They made space.
They adjusted.
They served.
That is servant leadership in its most practical form.
Servant leadership is not always a speech, a program, or a carefully written mission statement. Sometimes it is making sure first responders have a room, injured passengers have a place to be evaluated, families have somewhere to wait, and people doing difficult work have access to what they need.
The school did not need to be at the center of the story.
It simply needed to be available.
There is a lesson in that for every leader.
Leadership is not always about being the person with all the answers.
Sometimes it is about creating the conditions that allow others to do their best work.
Sometimes it is providing the space.
Sometimes it is removing an obstacle.
Sometimes it is opening the door.

A New Direction for UnCommon EdLeaders

For the past year, UnCommon EdLeaders has explored servant leadership, public education, advocacy, local decision-making, and the challenges facing rural schools.
Those conversations will continue.

But this story points toward a broader purpose.
Perhaps UnCommon EdLeaders should not simply be a blog about rural education.
Perhaps it should be a leadership blog told from a rural perspective.
Rural communities offer leadership lessons that reach far beyond schools.
They teach us that relationships create capacity.
They show us that credibility matters more than visibility.
They remind us that institutions earn trust through consistent service.
They prove that leadership is often most powerful when it is practical, personal, and close to the people.
These are not lessons that apply only to superintendents.
They apply to principals, teachers, business owners, elected officials, pastors, coaches, healthcare workers, and anyone entrusted with serving others.
The stories may begin in rural schools.
But the lessons belong to every leader.

The UnCommon Measure

The strongest argument for rural schools may not be found in a legislative hearing, a funding formula, or an accountability report.
It may be found in what happens when the water rises, the train leaves the tracks, or a community suddenly needs a place to gather.
In those moments, no one has time to launch a campaign about the importance of the local school.
They already understand it.
The buses are ready.
The gym is open.
The classrooms become workspaces.
The cafeteria begins serving whoever needs to be fed.
The people arrive because trust has already shown them where to go.
That may be the real measure of leadership.
Not how loudly an organization describes its importance, but how instinctively people turn toward it when the circumstances become difficult.
The true value of rural schools is not limited to what happens inside them from eight to three.
Day after ordinary day, they become part of the foundation beneath their communities.
Then an extraordinary day arrives.
The doors open.
The lights come on.
And the school becomes exactly what its community needs.

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2026 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament Recap

2026 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament

The 2026 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament was held on Monday, July 20th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Thirty-seven teams (145 golfers) endured the heat to tee off at noon playing the Links and Rivers Courses. Although it was extremely hot, this year's event

turned out to be our biggest gathering ever. Preliminary numbers show that we may exceed our overall scholarship funds raised last year during this event.

Special thanks to all of those who sponsored, had booths on the course and braved the heat to participate in this annual event.

Key or Corporate Sponsors Include:

Veregy – Founding Collaborator Flight ($5,000.00)
STEP Up – Founding Collaborator Flight ($5,000.00)
SIC Midwest – Platinum Flight ($4,000.00)
UMB Bank – Platinum Flight ($4,000.00)
L.J. Hart & Company – Gold Flight ($3,000.00)
Missouri Educator's Trust – Gold Flight ($3,000.00)
Acrisure/OSBA – Gold Flight ($3,000.00)
American Fidelity – Silver Flight ($2,000.00)
balanceHQ – Silver Flight ($2,000.00)
Quality Network Solutions – Silver Flight ($2,000.00)
SM Wilson & Company – Silver Flight ($2,000.00)
MEUHP – Silver Flight ($2,000.00)
MOCAAT – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Guin Mundorf, LLC – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Mickes O'Toole, LLC – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Daikin TMI – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Reynolds Construction & Commercial Roofing – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Smith Paper & Janitor Supply – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
4M Building Solutions – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C. – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)
SlateXP (LearnSafe) – Bronze Flight ($1,000.00)

Hole/Prize Sponsors ($250.00-$350.00) Include:

Navitas, EdCounsel, LLC, Universal Construction, Hoener Architects, LLC, Piper Sandler, MSPMA, Mickes O'Toole, LLC, Gilmore & Bell, P.C. x two, Holland Construction, Midwest Transit, Coryell Roofing, SIC Midwest, Thrivent, First Onsite, Absolute Janitorial, KRJ Architecture, K12itc, McKinstry, Hamlin Energy, MUSIC, Missouri Propane Gas, Facility Solutions Group, Missouri Center for Rural Education, Opaa! Food Management, Gator Graphics, MCE, MCE Education Law, Curriculum Associates x four, Inclusive Leadership Lab, MASA, IFS, MRTA, Magic School, Stifel, Denovo Building Solutions, Twotrees Technologies, Schneider Electric, Forrest T. Jones, Sonus Benefits, Education Co-Pilot

Flight Winners Include:
Flight A – Luke Fitzpatrick, Derek Poe, Molly Kemna, Jeff Miller
Flight B – Chris Weiman, Chris Spears, Cheyne Brokate, Mike Ogden
Flight C – J.P. Norman, Garrett Lowder, Jeremy Brownfield, Matt Summers
Flight D – Ryan Brinton, Jim Jones, Brian Crawford, Kelly Hinshaw
Flight Runner-Ups Include:
Flight A – Danny DeWitt, Steven Mallow, Jeff Dodson, Phil Lewis
Flight B – Nate Ediger, Brent Boehringer, Jeff Townsend, Austin Beck
Flight C – Casey Vaught, Evan Asleson, Chuck Garner, Drew Garner
Flight D – Patty Pink, Scott LaRue, Eric Brown, Quade Brown

Closest to Pin Winners Include: #4 Links (Becky Esrock), #8 Links (Chris Spears), #7 River (Brian Hansen, #4 River (Jerry Premer)
Long Drive Winner: #9 Links – Jeff Miller

Special thanks to Jerry Cochran, Rebecca Steinhoff, Walter Steinhoff & Stacy Hirt for helping with registration, taking photos, making the day run smoothly, organizing prize bags, etc. Exta special kudos to Larry Salsman and the team at Osage National for making this an amazing event for us. Next year's event is tentatively planned for Monday, July 19th at Osage National. We are putting in a request now for cooler weather and a breeze. More information on the actual date and such at a later time.

Please check out the website for photos from the event. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the 16th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament! See you next year!

On America's 250th Birthday, What Will Be Left of Rural Missouri?

Next month, a child waiting for the bus in a rural district may stand beside a two-lane road, looking across land that has been in one family for generations.

But more and more, that will not be the case.

Rural land that once supported family farms and community life is being absorbed into something larger and less personal. On the ride to school, he may pass where decades ago a locally owned grocery store, hardware store, diner, feed store, or physician's office once stood — places where people knew not only your name, but your grandparents' names too.

Now, he is more likely to pass a Walmart, a corporate feed store, empty storefronts, and farmland whose future may be decided by people who will never call that community home. If his community is lucky, the hospital is still there. If not, the nearest emergency room may be an hour away.

That child did not make any of those decisions.

He did not decide manufacturing jobs would leave, the family farm would be sold, or consolidated, main streets would hollow out, hospitals would close, or outside investors would look at rural land and see only acreage, not history.

But through all that change, one institution has remained.

The local public school.

It is where a child can still learn close to home, be known, be challenged, and have the same claim on the future as any child in Missouri.

In many rural communities, the school is not just another public building. It is the last anchor. It is where children learn, where families gather on Friday nights, and where the community turns in crisis — as southeast Missouri did during recent flooding, when schools became response posts.

The school is where a community tells its children: you belong here, and you have a future here.

We have become consumed by grade-level performance, statewide rankings, and figures that fit neatly into narratives. Yet in rural Missouri where almost every other indicator is flashing red — population, jobs, healthcare, income — rural schools are still doing their job. They are educating children in communities asked to absorb decades of economic disruption and preparing students for college, careers, military service, skilled trades, agriculture, health care, and public service.

A state report can measure proficiency, attendance, graduation. Those things matter. But it cannot fully measure whether the school is the last institution keeping a community intact.

Behind every spreadsheet is a larger question: Ten years from now, will every Missouri child still have a strong local public school? And will communities still decide what that school looks like?

That question should concern every Missourian. It is why the future of public education in Missouri is also a rural survival issue.

Because when a rural school weakens, the whole community feels it.

Families who have stayed, worked, worshiped, coached, volunteered, farmed, opened businesses, and raised children there depend on the school as proof that their community still has a future. So do employers, churches, fire departments, and civic groups that rely on people believing the town is worth investing in.

If the school closes, the decision is no longer just about education. It becomes a signal that the community itself is being asked to fade away.

And once that happens, it is very hard to come back.

Missouri is more than its largest cities and suburbs. Our state's identity was shaped along river towns on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, on family farms, and in small communities that built schools before almost anything else.

These places are not relics. They are not sentimental backdrops for America's 250th birthday or the campaign trail. They are living communities, part of the character, economy, and history that made Missouri great.

As we reflect on America's 250th birthday this year, we should be honest about what kind of Missouri we are preparing to hand to the next generation.

Will we be a state where only larger, wealthier, fast-growing communities can maintain strong schools? Will we tell children in smaller towns that opportunity requires leaving home? Will we accept a future where rural Missouri's remaining institutions disappear until there is no town left to preserve?

Or will we decide that some things are worth protecting?

Rural Missourians know how to adapt. They have done it for generations. They do not ask for special treatment. They do not expect every challenge to be solved for them. But they do expect the people making decisions in Jefferson City to understand what is at stake.

A school district is not merely a building that can be merged, moved, or consolidated without consequence. In many communities, it is the heartbeat.

If that heartbeat stops, something more than a school is lost.

This is a moment when rural Missouri must say enough: enough to the idea that decline is inevitable, enough to policies that make it harder for communities to sustain themselves, and enough to decisions that erase the places that made Missouri what it is.

Rural leaders have stood apart before to defend the people and places they represent. We need them to do it again.

The fight ahead is not about protecting a system for the sake of a system. It is about protecting children, families, local control, and the communities that have held this state together for over two centuries.

That child waiting for the bus is thinking about his first day of school, about his teacher, his friends, his teammates, and whether lunch will be pizza.

He believes the school will always be there.

The adults owe him more than nostalgia. We owe him a future.

And for much of rural Missouri, that future begins with whether the local public school survives.

***This article was recently posted in the Missouri Independent and possibly other media outlets. Share as you deem appropriate. Thanks to the team who put this together!**

Team-Builders Academy – Momentum Retreat

Team-Builders Academy Launches Momentum Retreat to Strengthen School Leadership Teams.

COLUMBIA, MO – [7/14/2026] – Team-Builders Academy (TBA) is launching the Momentum Retreat, a new leadership development experience designed to help school leadership teams build trust, align around shared values, and create the goals that ignite momentum needed for a successful school year.

The inaugural Momentum Retreat will bring together the leadership team from Laquey R-V School District for an immersive experience focused on strengthening communication, clarifying team expectations, and developing practical leadership strategies that can be carried back into their schools. The retreat emphasizes immersive team challenges, collaboration, intentional culture-building, and actionable planning that extends beyond the event itself.

Unlike traditional professional development, the Momentum Retreat is designed to provide leaders with dedicated time to reflect, bond, collaborate, and establish a unified strategy before the demands of the school year begin. Through interactive workshops, team quests spanning multiple locations, and strategic planning sessions, participants will leave with practical tools to strengthen their teams and sustain positive momentum throughout the year.

The Momentum Retreat will be an annual leadership team development event for school districts wanting their teams to bond, build, and accomplish measurable improvements for their respective organizations. Future retreats are expected to expand

opportunities for additional districts to participate while continuing to focus on leadership excellence, organizational culture, and meaningful professional growth.
By launching the Momentum Retreat, Team-Builders Academy continues its commitment to equipping educational leaders with practical strategies that strengthen relationships, inspire collaboration, and create lasting impact within schools and communities. The Momentum Retreat builds leadership teams to launch and hit the target.

Would it be a bad idea to invest a few days in building the momentum that could shape your entire school year? *Team-Builders Academy, LLC Office: 573-842-8026 bryanrush@tbaconnect.net Helping leaders build connected and inspired teams!*

About Team-Builders Academy:
Team-Builders Academy is a proven company of Harvard Leadership and Management Specialists; and Maxwell Leadership Members. We are formally trained in speaking, training, and coaching leadership and team development methodologies. Our team includes Certified Behavioral Analysis Consultants in the Maxwell DISC Method, equipping organizations with data-driven insights to improve collaboration and performance. We are the creators of the Connection Keys Ecosystem Team Training Program that helps our clients increase retention, engage team members, and help the organization achieve measurable wins.

We leverage our collective 40 years of experience and strategic expertise to deliver impactful training and consulting services tailored to client specific needs, driving measurable results and sustainable organizational growth.

Contact Bryan Below.
Bryan C. Rush
Maxwell Leadership Certified Trainer | Harvard Leadership and Management Specialist
Team Builders Academy, LLC | Mobile: 573-842-1406 | bryanrush@tbaconnect.net
Maxwell DISC Pattern - IDC