

OBITUARIES

Daniel J. Smith

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IN THE NEWS

Chamber Directors Meet Tuesday

The Sarcoxie Area Chamber of Commerce directors will meet Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Sarcoxie Senior Center to finalize plans for the annual banquet, which will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, at 6 p.m. The banquet event will include a meal, silent auction, entertainment, a short business meeting and presentations of the Bill Dodson Citizen of the Year Award and the Business of the Year Award. Anyone who would like to make reservations for the banquet may call Judy Patrick at (417) 437-5522. Deadline for those reservations are January 9.

Relay For Life Plans Kickoff Jan. 13

Sarcoxie Relay For Life will be holding its annual kickoff Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Sarcoxie High School. The event will begin with a chili dinner at 4 p.m. The dinner will run throughout all three basketball games that night. During halftime of the last game, all cancer survivors will be recognized. T-shirts are being sold now so that all those attending can wear them to the game that night to show their support. For more information contact sarcoxiere-lay4life@gmail.com.

Chamber Invites Dodson Award Nominees

The Sarcoxie Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Bill Dodson Citizen of the Year Award and the Business of the Year Award. Residents of the area are asked to nominate the individual and/or business they feel encompasses the best when promoting or representing the Sarcoxie area. Nominations for these awards can be picked up at the City Hall, the Sarcoxie Public Library and Pinnacle Bank. The nominations should be completed and returned by Jan. 9, 2015. The awards will be presented at the annual chamber banquet on Jan. 22.

Sentinels Invite Others

Sarcoxie Police Sentinels are looking for civic-minded volunteers to join in helping the community with special events for the city. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and pass a police background check. Contact Sarcoxie City Hall at (417) 548-7242 or Capt. Rick Mize at (417) 317-1072.

Tips Solicited

We welcome suggestions for story ideas, especially features about people in and around Sarcoxie, their projects, their talents, hobbies, etc. Call Paul Donley or Katrina Keys at *The Record* office, (417) 548-3311 or email your story idea to fstop@centurytel.net.



Reeds cemetery subject of request from Belgium for information

The search for relatives of an American soldier who died in World War II began in Belgium late last year, and it led a young man from that country to seek help from people in southwest Missouri, more specifically the Reeds area.

Koen Bolckmans inquired about relatives of Henry A. Conn, and he explained he has “adopted” the grave of the soldier who died fighting in Germany Jan. 31, 1945. “Henry was a soldier during World War II and was born in Missouri,” Bolckmans wrote. “I adopted his grave in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, and would like to know some-

thing about Henry and I even would like to find a picture of Henry. I’m very curious what he looks like.”

He went on to explain why he was inquiring in southwest Missouri. “According to my information > Henry’s father Daniel is buried in Reeds Cemetery, Jasper County, Missouri. Daniel’s wife Myrtle (Henry’s mother) is buried there also, as is their daughter Caroline, and their son Hugh, who was a PVT in WWII.”

Bolckmans asked for information from obituaries published in local newspapers and said, “Maybe I can find through the obits of his



Koen Bolckmans is pictured with the grave of a World War II soldier whose family members are buried at Reeds Cemetery. He recently “adopted” the grave.

other brothers (Herchel, Hugh, Earnest, James, or sister Caroline) some information and I truly hope some family members.”

A search of newspaper archives failed to reveal anything from 1945, and short of looking through each paper for a period of decades the search fell short of success.

However, the newspaper agreed to see whether any of the readers had information which might help Bolckmans continue his search.

Bolckmans also provided some more information about himself.

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Watch service rings in new year

Story and photos by Pete Bradshaw, correspondent

Each year dozens of parties surface for people to join in celebrating the arrival of a new year; however the people of Sarcoxie’s Assembly of God Church wanted a celebration with a purpose. For the third consecutive year their Community Watch Service has welcomed anyone to join them for an evening of fun.

“For the last three years we’ve taken the last day of the year to have a fellowship that included some singing groups,” explained Pastor Gary Wilkes. “Everyone comes to enjoy the fellowship together, have a meal and welcome in the New Year as part of the body of Christ. We welcome everyone from area churches to share and worship with us.”

The event began three years ago when Wilkes was filling in for the church’s pastor. “A couple of families wanted to get together for the evening and we’ve just kept it going,” he said. “We make it open for everyone to come, plus there’s no charge and we don’t take any donations for the event. Everyone brings something for the meal like a potluck.”

Holly Ellis and her family have made the Community Watch Service their tradition since it began. She said, “It’s a good place for good music, good eats and visit with friends we’ve not seen for a long time. It’s all about just having a good time and bringing



Country gospel singer Mike Greenstreet sings the thought provoking tune “America You’re too Young to Die” to close the Community Watch Service. in the New Year.”

As members of various churches those attending shared their concerns for the state of the county while seeking counsel from their Creator on what they could have a positive impact on their community. Gospel singer Mike Greenstreet reminded the group that America is like an endangered youth whose family and friends need to rally together to it back on track.

The final selection of music for the evening was a song called “America You’re too Young to Die.” Greenstreet said he felt the songs words and the message of that song are so timely with our country and increased awareness of what’s going on.

“It feels we’ve lost control no

MoDOT finds suitcase with ‘pot’ inside

Lawrence County Sheriff Brad DeLay is looking for the person who “lost” a suitcase with contents worth as much as \$40,000, and he’s offering extras – jewelry and a date, in a manner of speaking, to the person who can identify and claim the suitcase.

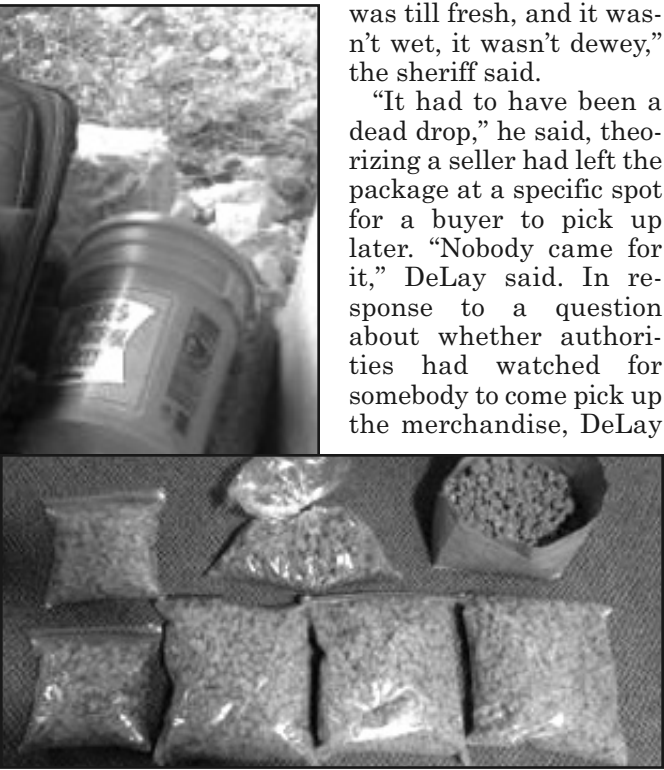
The \$40,000 was the estimate of the street value of the 15 pounds of marijuana inside the bag, which was found near Interstate 44 by Missouri Department of Transportation workers recently.

He said the MoDOT workers were working at a bridge “roughly where H Highway turns south” toward Freistatt.

“It was the lucky find of the day,” DeLay said, when workers “saw a bright red or orange bucket” near the inter-



The green suitcase and the red container found by highway workers, and (at right) the 15 pounds of marijuana inside the suitcase.



“It was by pure chance they stumbled upon it,” DeLay said. He said it hadn’t been there long; “it

was till fresh, and it wasn’t wet, it wasn’t dewey,” the sheriff said.

“It had to have been a dead drop,” he said, theorizing a seller had left the package at a specific spot for a buyer to pick up later. “Nobody came for it,” DeLay said. In response to a question about whether authorities had watched for somebody to come pick up the merchandise, DeLay

said the drug task force, highway patrol and his office “set somebody up 10

or 12 hours” watching for the buyer to pick up his package. When that didn’t happen, authorities picked it back up and logged it in as evidence.

But he said with a laugh the proper owner can claim it if he or she wants.

“If this is your suitcase, please bring identification and proof of ownership to the sheriff’s office and we will take care of you from there,” DeLay said.

As a bonus, the owner can get jewelry – bracelets strangely resembling handcuffs – and a date, or more, as in an appointment to see a judge and the inside of the criminal justice system. “We’ll give them room and board, fine dining, and nice relaxing colors” in their surroundings, the sheriff added.