

Man gets 30 years in 2019 death

Remains of 25-year-old woman found near Highway 59

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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NOEL, Mo. — A Somali national was sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for the 2019 death of 25-year-old Jessica McCormack in McDonald County. Mahamud Toxoow Mahamed, 44, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Megan B. Benton to 30 years for kidnapping the woman, which resulted in her death. Her body was discovered July 29, 2019, near Missouri Highway 59. A passerby reported that a pink suitcase had been seen in a roadside ditch with feet sticking out. Authorities found a severely decomposed body next to the pink suitcase.

SEE PRISON, 2A

Large fentanyl stash found during arrests

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin Flex Platoon detectives and a Jasper County SWAT team uncovered 1.3 pounds of the drug fentanyl plus about 90 grams of methamphetamine in a hidden stash at the north Joplin residence of a man authorities sought as an alleged drug trafficker. Investigators reported that Russell Scott Greene, 44, was allegedly found to have the drugs and a number of guns hidden inside a vent at his trailer home that had been fabricated to hide contraband. The 1.3 pounds of fentanyl are equivalent to about 300,000 doses, police said in a statement. They reported that the Drug Enforcement Administration considers 2 milligrams of fentanyl a lethal dose. Greene was arraigned by video from

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'Bittersweet'



Johnathan Terry (right) looks over some old Pleasant Valley class pictures from the early 1900s with his son, Lathon Terry, at Tuesday's celebration of Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Pleasant Valley students, parents, alumni gather for final celebration at school

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — As teachers, staff and students at Pleasant Valley Elementary School wind down the 2025-26 school year, they're also aware that this year will mark the end of 158 years of elementary education for an area between Carthage and Webb City. Pleasant Valley teachers



Chad Brust, Macy Brust and Tricia Brust look over some of the old yearbooks and pictures that were put out at Tuesday's celebration of Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

and staff invited current and former students and families to Tuesday's Pleasant Valley Legacy Celebration.

tion. "For years Pleasant Valley has been a second home to students, family and staff," the invitation said. "As we prepare to transition into a new era we invite you to walk the halls one last time and celebrate the incredible legacy we've built together." The "new era" became a reality in March when the Carthage Board of Education voted unanimously to move the students at Pleasant Valley to Steadley Elementary School on Fir Road about 5 miles to the south and offer the Pleasant Valley school as a new home for the Beacon Autism Center. The Beacon Center is a regional

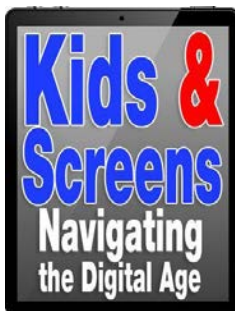
SEE SCHOOL, 2A

School cellphone bans spreading across United States

EDITOR'S NOTE: This week, CNHI and newsrooms across the nation begin a series of articles taking a look at the impact of Kids and Screens and how parents and guardians, children and peers, educators and law enforcement personnel are looking at what all this time on screens means. Over the course of the series, CNHI will look at what parents need to know, how state and local leaders are trying to limit time on screens — including a growing number of bell-to-bell bans in states — and what artificial intelligence's emergence means. Nine students across the nation will also offer their perspective on the digital world they have grown up in and how they thrive among growing concerns.

BY ERIC SCICCHITANO
CNHI News

Tyler McBride walked about his middle school classroom in rural Arkansas years ago during a period of silent reading as students sat in quiet, fixated on the texts before them. But hunched behind one book propped upright on a desk was a student fixated on something else, a smartphone positioned just so that it was



hidden. It wasn't hidden quite well enough. "I can remember the first few years I taught eighth grade and a lot of my students did not have cell-

phones," said McBride, now a sixth grade teacher and the senior policy fellow with Teach Plus Arkansas, and who began his career in 2012. "Now, I taught eighth grade a couple of years ago, and there were maybe five eighth graders out of 90 who did not have a smartphone." Long gone are the days when few students had smartphones and their internet-capable counterparts, such as smart-

watches and tablets, in school. The devices have become as commonplace inside classrooms as pencils and paper. And, with some measure of majority agreement, they've become a major distraction. It spurred action beyond policy implementation at individual school buildings and districts; many state governments adopted phone laws with

SEE SCREENS, 2A

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