

## LOCAL SCENE

### ► Saturday, Aug. 24

- Swim Across America, Innsbrook Resort, 7-10 a.m.
- All American Painting sporting clay shoot, 1259 Brevator Road, Old Monroe, 8 a.m.
- Community car wash to benefit Alzheimer's Association, Oak Pointe, Warrenton, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Woodstock, Diekroeger Park, Wright City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Back to school ice cream party, grades K-8th, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 12:30-1:30 p.m. RSVP.
- Live music, Lake Creek Winery, 1-4 p.m.
- Live music, Cedar Lake Cellars, 1-4 p.m.
- Family Ties, "A Drive to Remember" golf fundraiser, Warrenton Golf Course, 1:30 p.m.
- Live music, Deerfield's on Main, 6-9 p.m.

### ► Sunday, Aug. 25

- Binkley Exhibit, Warren County Museum, 1-4 p.m.
- Live music, Cedar Lake Cellars, 1-4 p.m.
- Live music, Lake Creek Winery, 1-4 p.m.
- Dance, Frank Stanek and the Country Limits, Lions Club, Warrenton, 1-4 p.m.

### ► Monday, Aug. 26

- Warren County Commission, administration building, 9 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 9:30 a.m.
- Warrenton Elks bingo, 6:30 p.m.
- Al-Anon, College United Methodist Church, Warrenton, 7 p.m.
- Wright City Lions Club, 7-10 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Group 130 meeting, senior center, 8-9 p.m.

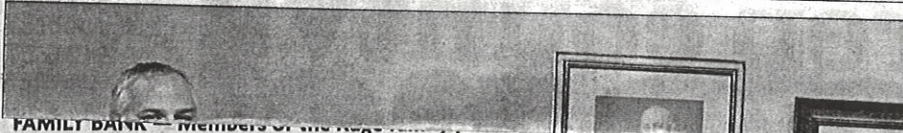
### ► Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Warren County Commission, administration building, 9 a.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 10 a.m.
- Wright City Chamber of Commerce meeting, Wil Heiliger Activity Building, Wright City, 11:45 a.m.
- Kiwanis Club of Warrenton Area meeting, Oliver's Restaurant, 289 W. Veterans Memorial Parkway, Warrenton, noon.
- Chicks With Sticks, crochet or knitting lessons, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 1 p.m.
- Warren County Farmers and Artisans Market, Warrenton City Hall Pavilion, 3:30-6 p.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Grace Bible Church, 25445 S. Highway 47, Warrenton, 5:15 p.m.
- Cocaine Anonymous, 116 S. Maline St., Bellflower, 5:45 p.m.

- Archer Alexander, Missouri Slave and American Hero, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 6 p.m. RSVP.
- Curricula night, Liberty Christian Academy, seventh through 12th grade students, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

### ► Wednesday, Aug. 28

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, 104 Hedeman, Wright City, 9 a.m.
- Lemonade stand to benefit Alzheimer's Association, Oak Pointe, Warrenton, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Story Time for Preschoolers, Scenic Regional Library, Wright City, 10 a.m.
- Warrenton Elks bingo, 10 a.m.
- OATS Transportation Committee meeting, the nutrition center, Warrenton, 1 p.m.
- A Novel Bunch book club, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 2 p.m. RSVP.
- Mat Pilates, Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, 5 p.m. RSVP.
- Truesdale Board of Aldermen, city hall, 5:30 p.m.



**FAMILY BANK** — Members of the Ruge family. The bank has been operated by four generations of their family. Standing, from left, are Trae Kristin (Ruge) Beckmeyer, Owen Beckmeyer and Marcella (Ruge) Holiway. Other family members are Gere Ruge, Aimee Beaudet and Isobel Ruge. Record photo/Adam Rollins.

## BANK

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Ruge said, and purchased the holdings of several other banks that went under during that time period. For many decades through the mid-20th century, FMB was the only bank in Wright City, Ruge said.

She commented that their grandmother, Nellie Ruge (herself a former president), was proud to recall that FMB came through the Great Depression healthy enough to qualify for FDIC insurance in 1935, two years after the federal program was first established. Corwin Ruge Sr. was president at the time.

Since those early years, FMB has built a long history in Wright City, including once being robbed of \$21,800, Corri Ruge commented. Melinda Bruning, the woman who helped police catch the robbers by recalling their license plate, was afterward offered a job at the bank.

In 1955 the bank moved from its original location on First Street to its current location at the corner of Second Street and Elm Street. Other expansions and remodels have come throughout the years. The bank abbreviated its name from Farmers and Merchants Bank to

FMB in 2007.

### Community bank

As generations of Ruges have operated the bank, they've built relationships with generations of customers and longtime employees. Ruge said those deep connections are one of the defining qualities of their bank, and each of them still interacts with customers.

"You'll see Kristin doing computer and working the drive-thru just like everybody else," she said.

"I would hate to lose that," Beckmeyer added. "I like feeling like we're doing something that has a purpose, that it helps somebody. I love it if somebody is trying to buy a house and we can make that happen for them. I like it if a little kid comes in and he wants to put his \$10 in someplace safe and feel really fancy."

There have been challenges to running an independent, small-town community bank. People are less likely to assume FMB has the same conveniences as banks with many branches, Ruge said. But the bank has worked to keep its technology and programs up to date while staying focused on its services to customers and community.

Working along with the Ruge family, some of the bank's other employees have worked at FMB for decades. Beckmeyer said the longest serving

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and teachers.

"We had a lot of bright-eyed and wide-open eyeballs on the sixth-graders," Allison commented. "(Faculty) have done a real good job of helping them understand that this is a little different. ... They've done a good job of keeping things routine and comfortable."

The teachers and students in all grades have spent

some time getting to know each other and doing team building, he said.

Along with the change to the school week, Allison said the middle school is providing a learning lab at the end of school days to help fulfill students' individual needs. The school is also adopting a program from the high school level to proactively help students keep up with their homework.

Allison himself is new to the school district this year, and said he has received a positive welcome.

"I felt a lot of support from the staff and community. Lots of people are coming by, getting to know and are excited about what we're doing," Allison said. "It's been really positive, really exciting. I'm looking forward to every day."

### Attendance up slightly

Klinginsmith said attendance at the schools is slightly close to what it was last year, up about 15 students across the entire district. As of Friday, Aug. 16, 3, were enrolled in the district.

That number could

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at both East and West Elementary schools enjoyed recently completed new playgrounds.

"The new playgrounds have been a huge hit," said Buck. "The kids are loving it."

lege to offer dual enrollment programs, with seven students taking courses on campus. There also are at least 20 students opting to take college classes online.

"If you're a parent in Wright City right now, this might be a great opportunity for your child, because we're not only paying for the ACT but also potentially up to two years of college

rolled for the first semester, they have the option to sign up for second semester classes.

There is also a teen leadership sophomore class, part of the district's effort to prepare students for college and career by developing important "soft" skills.

Within the classroom, new interactive panels enhanced capabilities for